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THE REFORM DEMONSTRATION.

ALTHOUGH the Reform procession did not quite come up to the anticipations of the *Star*, which had announced that it would be "greater in numbers than the largest army which ever yet decided a nation's destiny on a battle-field," it was certainly an imposing demonstration. It does not matter much whether 15,000, 20,000, or 30,000 men took part in it. The workmen of London were there in considerable force, and a sufficient answer has been given to the charge of political carelessness, so cheerfully brought against them by those who would like nothing better than that their accusation should be based on truth. It would be an immense misfortune to this country if the working class as a body took no interest in political affairs; and it cannot be expected to take any deep interest in them if it is only allowed to view them, as it were, from the outside. The reasons given for excluding the great producers of the wealth of the country from all share in political power (which is a very different thing from handing over the Government of the country to them) have hitherto been most unsatisfactory. For some time it was argued that, if any great extension of the suffrage took place, the working men would "swamp the existing constituencies." Then

this argument was, for the most part, abandoned, the great discovery having been made that the working men, who otherwise might prove very worthy electors, did not want votes at all. Of course, if they did not want the suffrage, there could be no great injustice in withholding it from them; and for a considerable time it was the fashion among the opponents of Reform to say that those who would be immediately affected by it were quite careless on the subject; that when things were quiet, and likely to remain so, it was a pity to move them; that the country was "sound," and quite willing to be let alone, if agitators would be contented not to disturb it; and so on.

Now, to assertions of this kind it was absolutely necessary to give some reply. The working class had been distinctly told that it did not desire political rights, or it would ask for them. To have remained silent and inactive under such a taunt would have been to have admitted its truth; and, if there were anything to object to in the course adopted by the members of the trades unions for "demonstrating" their opinions, those would, in a great measure, be responsible for it who rendered the demonstration necessary. But nothing could have been better ordered than the whole proceedings

of Monday last, and this in spite of the most dismal prognostications to the contrary. The body of men that marched from St. James's Park to Beaufort House was not quite so numerous as that which, either on the Austrian or on the Prussian side, marched to the field of Sadowa; but in no army was better discipline ever shown, though in this case there was no one to enforce it. Every man, so to say, was his own officer. There was no one really empowered to control the workmen, nor was any control needed. There are some ingenious persons, however, who would even turn this most creditable fact against the demonstrators. As no unseemly shouting took place, it is said that there was not much enthusiasm. If any great amount of enthusiasm had been exhibited, complaints of riotous conduct would have been made; and it would have been asked whether the power of making a great noise was to be regarded as an electoral qualification.

Had the meeting taken place in the immediate vicinity of London, it would, no doubt, have been much more numerously attended than it actually was. Nor was the great distance of Beaufort House from the centre of the metropolis the only cause of its comparative unimportance, in a numerical



THE LONDON TRADES' REFORM DEMONSTRATION: THE MEETING IN BEAUFORT HOUSE GROUNDS.

point of view. The weather was of as thoroughly British a character as the demonstration itself. The opponents of Reform were so anxious for a wet day that we should not have been astonished if, on Sunday, the eve of the demonstration, the congregations of some of the fashionable churches had openly prayed for rain. Such a prayer is likely enough to be granted at this time of year; but it must be remembered that the effect of the bad weather was, after all, not to arrest the determination of the workmen to manifest their views, but to show that they would not allow any slight inconvenience or obstacle to stand in their way.

It seems to us that too much importance ought not to be attached to the mere numerical question. We were told that 200,000 working men were so eager for Reform that they were prepared to give up a day's wages and to perform a sort of pilgrimage to Beaufort House rather than be suspected of indifference. Now, the fact is that only about an eighth part of the number expected "showed" when the time came. There was nothing very astonishing in this. The Russian army is a million strong, and Russia really possesses a million soldiers; but 150,000 men is supposed to be about the largest force that this Power can send to any distance beyond its frontiers. The million men are down on the list of the Minister of War; there is no doubt about that; and they are all equally ready to fight. But some are ill, others have business to attend to at home; others, again, are in out-of-the-way places and cannot conveniently be moved to the scene of action. So with the 200,000 workmen. Of the whole number a majority, we can readily believe, were willing to take part in the procession; but of this majority a large proportion, for a variety of reasons, may have been unable to do so. Nor does it by any means follow, because a man cannot or does not choose to walk out eight miles through the rain—as, for instance, from some place in the east district of London to Beaufort House in the west—that therefore he is not to have a vote. What numbers would be disfranchised if it were required of every elector, duly qualified in other respects, to take a walk, we will not say of sixteen miles, but of even half that distance? The question of the extension of the suffrage is certainly not one of those of which it can be said, "*solvit ambulando.*"

If the procession had not taken place at all, we should still have maintained the desirability—apart even from their own wishes on the subject—of giving votes to the better class of working men, who, we firmly believe, possess more honesty and intelligence, and therefore more patriotism, than the inferior class of tradesmen. Indeed, an objection has been made to their admission to the suffrage precisely on the ground that they are *too* independent—*too* little inclined to work harmoniously with the classes above them. This only means that they are determined to stand up for their rights, or what they conceive to be their rights—a very good fault in electors, who, it used formerly to be held, ought, above all things, to be "free and independent." There is some talk of a second demonstration, which, however, can scarcely be necessary. No attempt ought to be made to bully Parliament into changing the electoral law. A reform bill will most probably be introduced at the beginning of the Session; and in the debate on the subject it will at least be impossible to maintain that the working men are careless whether they have votes or not.

THE LONDON TRADES' REFORM DEMONSTRATION.

The Times prefaces its account of the demonstration in favour of Parliamentary Reform on Monday with the following remarks:—"The working men of the metropolis, like the working men of other parts of the country, yesterday expressed their opinion upon the Reform question. They did so in the best temper and in the most orderly spirit, and probably with less inconvenience to the general public than anybody could have ventured to hope. At the same time a result in every way so satisfactory has been attained only through the frustration upon nearly all points of the wishes of the promoters. The demonstration was not held in any of the public parks. A site tendered by the Government was refused by the Reform League, and facilities for the meeting were eventually accepted at the hands of a member of the very party which it was the object of the demonstration to discredit. The League, disappointed as to the site, clung strenuously to the project of making a demonstration grander in point of numbers than any which had taken place in the provinces. So far from attaining their desires, the aggregate yesterday assembled under the Reform banner has been out-numbered repeatedly in different parts of this kingdom. To the circumstance that the Reform League egregiously miscalculated the extent of their own influence it is, however, owing that the proceedings came to an end in daylight, and that the admirable behaviour of the classes who shared in the procession was not marred or discredited by violence committed, after nightfall, by any lower strata of society. Had the crowd, and consequently the duration of the march, been multiplied eight or ten fold, the anticipations of misfortune might have proved but too well founded. As regards the arrangements, they appear to have been more carefully matured than was generally supposed possible; and the trades and members of the different societies yielded a willing obedience to their leaders. The day's proceedings showed—what the sturdiest Conservative must be willing to admit—that the more intelligent mechanics are at least the equals, in all that constitutes good citizens, of the small shopkeepers who now possess the franchise. Any Englishman might feel proud of the bearing and demeanour of those men who walked to Beaufort House yesterday, through pools of mud and under frequent showers, to vindicate a principle on which they felt strongly. But the important question is, how many such men are there in the constituency? And on this very point it is that those who should know the class most intimately, who made the arrangements for this very demonstration, were yet the persons who were most egregiously misled. From all quarters of London, but especially from the East-End, large bodies of workmen were looked for."

ST. JAMES'S PARK AND PALL-MALL.

The inauspicious weather which prevailed during the morning threatened the success of the long-talked-of Reform demonstration; but the rain, which had been falling from an early hour, ceased shortly after ten o'clock, and the arrangements contemplated by the promoters of the demonstration were fully carried into effect. St. James's Park, Trafalgar-square, and Pall-mall presented a busy appearance. There appeared to be no interference with or obstruction to traffic; and, although the police were present to preserve order, there seemed to be no need of their services. Idlers and boys

abounded in the crowds, but there was an entire absence of that roughness of conduct which usually characterises our London mobs. About half-past ten the trades and societies commenced getting into position in the park beneath their bannerets. The societies were formed into four divisions. The first division was formed in the right and left avenues facing Buckingham Palace, continuing round Spring-gardens-avenue, towards the Horse Guards; the second division, commencing opposite the Horse Guards, extended through the gates leading into Birdcage-walk, and continued along the Horse-ride and Birdcage-walk towards Buckingham Palace. The third division commenced at Buckingham Palace-gate, continuing up each side of Constitution-hill; while the fourth division, consisting of the branches of the Reform League, was formed at Trafalgar-square, and proceeded down Parliament-street and Great George-street, halting at Storey's-gate.

The members of the Farriers' Society, who were mounted, arrived at Marlborough courtyard at half-past ten, and excited much attention. About half-past eleven, nearly the entire number of societies connected with the demonstration were in marching order, the members having placed themselves six abreast, at the rear of their respective bannerets. At this time a great crowd had collected at Marlborough House gate, through which the procession was to pass; and at the bottom of St. James's-street were drawn up a number of carriages, in which the deputations, &c., were to be driven.

As noon approached the crowd, of course, became denser, and locomotion was anything but convenient to the foot-passengers; but the much-dreaded "roughs" were nowhere. The general good-humour and orderliness of the crowd were very remarkable, and the one or two policemen here and there had really nothing to do: they were simply spectators.

THE PROCESSION.

The procession started precisely at twelve o'clock. The farriers, who led the way, the popular cavalry, were a very fine body of men, and managed their steeds most dexterously. They were very much cheered; and the service they rendered in clearing the way as the vanguard contributed greatly to the success of the march. As the procession set out on its five miles route, with bands playing, flags waving, and all eyes scanning its chief features, the spectacle was very interesting, and the crowd, who, from their conversation appeared to be all Reformers, loudly expressed their pride and pleasure. The bands were very numerous, some twenty-five in all, and the music very good; the tunes were varied, including "God Save the Queen," "The Marseillaise," "See the Conquering Hero Comes," "The Men of Merrie England," &c. The marching pace at first was at least three or three and a half miles an hour, and by a little after half-past twelve fifteen of the forty-eight sub-divisions had passed through the Mall. A little hitch then occurred, and there was a slight delay. Probably the pressure in Piccadilly had begun to tell in Pall-mall. But, after a slight interval, the pace again became rapid, and the men pressed steadily forward, with none to keep the passage for them except the crowd on each side, at a rate which, if maintained, would have brought the end of the procession into Pall-mall by two o'clock. From the rapidity of the movement and other causes it was not easy to read the inscriptions on all the banners; but it may be as well to mention a few of them which were decipherable. One large banner, carried by the stonemasons, bore in large letters the inscription, "United we stand; divided we fall." A banner with similar inscription was borne by the tailors, who, it is believed, were the most numerous body in the procession. Another flag bore the words, "Fiat justitia," surmounted by a flag with the word "Bright." The sailors' ensign had the words, "Sailors' rights, and no surrender;" and the men who accompanied it were much cheered. Very many of the banners were evidently those of the particular benefit societies represented, bearing as they did figures and emblems representing Charity and Benevolence. The farriers' flag, which was a very handsome one, was decorated in the centre with three horseshoes; and following close upon it was a rich-looking white standard, inscribed "Excelsior." No part of the procession in Pall-mall was so popular as that of the glass-cutters, the spectacle of glass crowns, glass guns, and a glass sword forming a very pretty relief to the sameness of the ordinary trade's banners. The club balconies and windows in Pall-mall were thronged with members. The spectators at the Carlton, even, were occasionally cheered, and returned the cheer by a courteous salute. Before the Reform Club the cheering was loud and frequent, and the response was cordial. At the other clubs there was scarcely any demonstration.

Though there was a tolerable muster of police at Marlborough-gate, whence the procession started, all along Pall-mall few were visible; and the remark was freely made that the powers that be appeared to have left the "demonstrators" to their own devices. This impression, however, was removed on reaching the end of Waterloo-place. Let all honour be given to those to whom the honour is due for arrangements to which the success of the demonstration is mainly due. At this point the plan of the police arrangements was at once seen and appreciated. A strong body of men was posted across the end of every street from which a stream of traffic might otherwise have flowed and broken the continuity of the procession. Other constables were engaged in keeping the general traffic along the route to one side of the road; and so well was this effected that the circulation was kept up with very little interruption while the procession was making steady progress to its destination. A thin fringe of spectators in the middle of the road kept the two moving lines distinct, and tended to facilitate rather than impede the action of the police. This principle was carried out along the whole distance, and with the most satisfactory result; for nothing worthy of being called an obstruction occurred to the procession until it had diverged from the high road and had nearly reached its destination. Indeed, the police arrangements were in all respects admirable. No fewer than 5000 officers were detailed for special duty. About 1500 of them were stationed at various points, and the remainder were kept in reserve at the different police stations, omnibuses ready-horsed being at hand to convey the men to any place at which their services might be required. Most of the shops in Waterloo-place and Piccadilly were close shut, and the employés were amongst the spectators that crowded the windows. The most noticeable feature in the crowds that lined the whole route, from its starting-point to its destination, was the immense proportion of men who wore in their hats the cards of admission to Beaufort House. It is no exaggeration to say that for every man in the procession there were several amongst the spectators who, by wearing this badge, were entitled to be considered Reform demonstrators themselves, or persons whose sympathies were warmly engaged in the cause. Many of these men, in addition to the Reform demonstration tickets, displayed the card of membership of the Reform League, or wore blue silk handbands bearing the word "Reform" in large letters of gold. Notwithstanding the warmth of the reception given by the great mass of the spectators, the men in the procession, except when they passed the Reform Club, evinced very little desire to be demonstrative. One notable case of exception to this apparent coldness deserves special mention. The procession had passed along Piccadilly as far as Cambridge House in the most admirable order, and so quietly as to have excited very general comment, when on reaching the house of Miss Burdett Coutts, that benevolent lady, who was standing at one of the windows with a few friends, was recognised by one of the first sections of the leading division. As if by one common impulse, the whole body of sturdy workers uncovered, cheered as only Englishmen can cheer, waved their hats, and bowed as they passed the residence. Each section, as it came up, heartily followed the example of those who had preceded; and for something like an hour and a half that noble-hearted lady was the object of an ovation almost Royal in its character. Miss Burdett Coutts, who was evidently taken by surprise, made the most cordial acknowledgment of the spontaneous homage thus paid to her estimable character.

At several points along the line of route the crowd of spectators was more than usually dense. This was specially the case at Hyde Park-corner, where, from this cause, there was a brief stoppage to the progress of the procession. Here another partial recognition was made. Lord Ranelagh, to whom the working men were

indebted for a place of meeting on the occasion, was on horseback there with a friend at the time the head of the procession reached the spot. He was speedily recognised by some of the volunteer element in the demonstration, and received, as he rode off, gratifying marks of good opinion which his recent conduct has in no wise tended to diminish. At St. George's Hospital all the convalescent patients thronged the windows, and there was an unusual muster of keen, intelligent-looking gentlemen connected with that excellent institution, who, it was suggested, were in attendance to meet the case of the casualties which, unhappily, might arise when so many human beings are brought together, and whose duty it might be later in the day to demonstrate the high efficiency of British surgery on some of those who were then defiling in health and strength before them. More agreeable reflections were excited by the scene at the Alexandra Hotel, a short distance beyond. Here every servant in the establishment appeared to have combined to give a cordial "God speed!" to the procession. Their hearty demonstrations of good-will were acknowledged by the moving column below, who cheered in return, and for a short time appeared to forget their marvellous gravity of demeanour. This, however, was the last time that any very general warmth was manifested before the procession reached its destination. For the remainder of the long march the steady, determined, business-like air of the large body of working men underwent no change. They tramped on through the muddy roads with a vigour that would have carried them through if the distance had been three times as far as it was. There was no tailing off from the ranks; though the weather, which had been threatening from the beginning, soon got very much worse. But, on the other hand, there were not the large additions to the ranks which had been reckoned on. Large gaps had been left between the different sections, to allow of men falling in on the line of route.

The large body of ticket-holders amongst the spectators, nearer the starting-point, waited until the whole procession had passed, and then came on in irregular order. Those nearer Beaufort House preferred getting on to the ground as rapidly as possible on finding the unfavourable turn which the weather was likely to take, and trooped off in large numbers before the head of the procession had well passed them. All through Knightsbridge, Brompton, and Fulham-road, the same interest was manifested by crowds of spectators, and the same order and regularity in the mode of proceeding with the display. It was not until the column turned off from the main road by St. John's Church that anything like a check occurred to the hitherto uninterrupted progress. The lane leading up to Beaufort House is so narrow, and the number of spectators and of those seeking admission to the grounds, apart from the ranks of the procession, so great, that a block occurred which lasted for some little time. The mounted farriers, who had all along shown great activity, galloping from point to point and promptly treating any symptoms of congestion that arose, had drawn up in two lines to allow the procession to pass between them. Finding their services again required, they started off and exerted themselves manfully, but for some time without effect. The head of the procession for a time got jammed in the narrow strait close by the entrance to the ground. The temporary confusion thus created was increased as far as possible by a gang of thieves and roughs of the lowest type, who had taken possession of the entrance-gate. Several robbers were committed, and the scoundrels attempted to drag out the occupants of one of the coaches at the head of the procession. This was successfully resisted by the gentlemen inside, and, the object of the scamps being manifested, they were signally discomfited by a couple of the mounted farriers, who, charging in amongst them like well-drilled dragoons, laid about so vigorously with their stout whip-staves that a few seconds served to convert a defeat into a rout. This was not the only instance in which a little wholesome Lynch law was administered with the happiest result. More than one scoundrel, detected in petty larceny or in acts calculated to bring discredit on the proceedings of the day, received so prompt and condign a punishment from a score of honest fists as to show conclusively that the working men would have crushed out at once any attempts at organised ruffianism.

BEAUFORT GROUNDS.

These grounds form a long and rather narrow strip of meadow land in Old Brompton, now used as a shooting-ground by the 2nd or South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, range of butts with a steep bank immediately behind it, surmounted by a high brick wall, forming its furthest boundary. On one side it is adjourned by large nursery-grounds, and on the other by private gardens, from which it is separated by a low and irregular fence. The main entrance to the ground is situated in the North-end-road, Fulham, not far from St. John's Church. Here, through a single gateway only about 13 ft. wide, leading into a passage of the same width and some 60 yards in length, access had to be obtained to the grounds by the procession and the great majority of the spectators; and a glance at this extremely narrow passage made everybody wonder how the vast numbers expected could ever find ingress before nightfall. The committee and other privileged visitors were admitted by the private entrance to Beaufort House, a few dozen yards further on. The meadow is about nine acres in extent, or some 400 yards long by 110 yards wide, and it was calculated that in order to make it contain anything like 200,000 persons, it would be necessary to pack four men in every square yard—an amount of compression, it need hardly be said, which flesh and blood could not endure. Seven small wooden platforms were erected at different points upon the ground, the principal, or platform No. 1, being immediately in front of the row of butts; and here it was intended that seven separate sets of speakers should simultaneously address as many groups of listeners. Refreshment-stands were also scattered about the field here and there, the large mess-room of the South Middlesex Rifle Volunteers being also appropriated in a similar manner by the committee and their friends. From an early hour the multitude began to congregate near the place of meeting, and by eleven o'clock a considerable number of persons had entered the ground. Everybody who had secured a ticket, the price of which was twopence, could claim admittance, and most of those who came displayed their tickets in their hats, or wore some badge denoting their adhesion to the cause of reform. It was long, however, before the concourse was large enough to do more than sparsely dot the ground; and for several hours the assemblage formed, as it were, but a narrow fringe round the refreshment-stands. The four mounted marshals of the grounds, with stars on their breasts, and purple and orange sashes, were seen galloping up and down at intervals throughout the morning, making their final arrangements; but little else occurred to interest the early comers. At length, about two o'clock, the sound of music was heard in the distance, indicating the approach of the procession, and a general hum of expectation arose from the assemblage within the grounds, now consisting of, perhaps, 10,000 men, mostly of the working classes. The sky for an hour or two previous had been dull and leaden, and a drizzling rain now set in. In some ten minutes more the van of the procession seemed to have reached the narrow gateway, and loud shouts were raised to welcome it. A small detachment of the farriers, preceded by three outriders, in bright blue uniforms relieved with yellow stripes, and accompanied by one large and two or three of their smaller trade banners, was the first portion of the great array to make its appearance; and it slowly advanced towards Platform No. 1, at the further end of the ground, where it took up its position. Some considerable time elapsed before it was succeeded by any other contingent, except the deputation from the Reform League, composed of Mr. Beales (the chairman), Colonel Dickson, Mr. Dresser Rogers, and Mr. Howell (secretary). These gentlemen were greeted with loud cheers as they ascended Platform No. 1, round which the multitude gradually clustered thickest. It was now twenty minutes past two, and a further instalment of the procession was eagerly looked for; but there were few signs of its coming, and it was plain that the fragments first on the ground had been widely separated from the main body, which it could only be conjectured was encountering serious impediments to its progress by the defile-like narrowness of the end of its route.

At length the West London Horseshoe Society came to reinforce their brethren, with rather newer and gayer banners, exhibiting a similar device; and they were soon followed by the London Working Men's Association, whose bright yellow flag proclaimed their object to be "to procure the political enfranchisement and promote the social and general interests of the industrial classes." Their band accompanied them, and played a lively air as they took ground to the right of No. 1 Platform. Next came the bearers of a white banner, on which was inscribed "Residential manhood suffrage and the ballot," the arrival of which drew forth from the chairman of the league the exclamation, "That is the banner; there is no humbug about it," a sentiment which elicited vehement cheers. Meanwhile the rain had very considerably increased, very few were provided with umbrellas, and the crowd began to manifest slight symptoms of impatience. Mr. George Potter, who was announced to take the chair at the principal platform, had not yet arrived, and the proceedings were consequently at a standstill. Then came a white banner bearing the motto "Excelsior," followed speedily by the Hatters' Society, who marched well and quickly, headed by their band, and then another squadron of farriers, also with their band, which on reaching the platform struck up the National Anthem. It was now a quarter to three, the rain continued, and the procession was making its appearance in rather meagre driblets, and there were still no signs of Mr. Potter. Several thousands of persons were gathered round No. 1 Platform, and Mr. Beales again apologised for keeping them waiting, adding, however, "There are two things which are worth 100 speeches—viz., Manhood Suffrage for the franchise and Hyde Park for the meeting." Loud cheers broke forth, with a voice, "I should like to dine with you in Hyde Park at Christmas!" followed by general laughter. One dissentient voice was here raised on this point by an elderly working man in a wideawake, who wanted to know why gentlemen on the platform should desire to stir up a mutiny about the parks; but, being only jeered and derided for his interrogatory, he made no further attempt to argue the matter. Several more fragments of the procession then presented themselves, among which were the glassblowers, carrying specimens of their industry, and having on their banner, "United we stand; divided we fall;" and the stonemasons, with their leathern aprons trimmed with blue, and who marched round by the rear of No. 1 Platform. The crowd had now grown denser and was surging and swaying rather wildly to and fro against the frail barrier which railed off the reporters from the general multitude. This structure soon began to rock ominously, and its occupants managed in time to mount the platform before it went down. The swaying still continued, the inflowing tide seeming only to gather force by the additional few feet it had won, and some fears began to be entertained lest the platform itself should give way—a catastrophe, however, which was happily averted. All this time the ground was not more than half covered, there being several great open gaps in its centre. In fact, though there were undoubtedly many thousands present, it was only round about the different platforms, and especially round Platform No. 1, that the masses of the people were seen swarming. It was past three o'clock, Mr. Potter had not yet shown himself, the rain was falling pretty fast, and some impatient spirits reminded the gentlemen on the chief platform that they were not under cover, and hinted that they would like to hear something to keep them quiet. Mr. Beales promised that, if Mr. Potter did not come soon, he would take the chair himself; and, after the lapse of a few minutes more, relieved only by the appearance of the London Operative Ropemakers, he was as good as his word.

Ultimately the ground was quite filled. Several speeches had been delivered when Mr. Potter took his place on the platform, and the proceedings assumed a more regular form. The following were the resolutions adopted at the several platforms:—

1. That this meeting enters its solemn protest against, and its denial of, the charges of venality, ignorance, drunkenness, and indifference to Reform brought against the working classes during the last Session of Parliament; and hereby declares that no Reform Bill falling short of the principles of registered residential manhood suffrage and the ballot will be satisfactory to the people or accepted as a final settlement of the Reform question.

2. That this meeting desires to acknowledge the services of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Mr. John Bright, Mr. John Sturt Mill, and all those who have supported the people's claim and vindicated their character in Parliament; and, further, expresses its confidence in Mr. John Bright as the champion of the national cause in the House of Commons.

3. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the chairman for his conduct in the chair, and to Lord Ranleigh for granting the use of these grounds for the service of the working classes on the present occasion.

THE RETURN TO TOWN—INCIDENTS.

Before all the resolutions had been passed the people began to disperse, and shortly after dark the grounds were comparatively clear. The return to town was marked by the same order and propriety that had distinguished the whole day's proceedings, which were concluded in the most satisfactory manner.

The creditable bearing and conduct of the men as a body who actually took part in the demonstration were the theme of constant remark throughout the day, and the police authorities on duty fully bear out the general opinion in that respect. They likewise state that the streets were kept clear from obstruction just as on ordinary days. The procession never stopped in consequence of any neglect of the police, and it was only necessary two or three times to break it in order to allow vehicles to cross it at certain points. These delays lasted but a few moments, and the procession speedily re-united, no ill-temper being shown on account of the breach. The reports from the same quarter state that not a single person in the procession was observed the worse for drink; that there were no cries for particular individuals nor any mention made of reform; that the demonstration altogether had been a most peaceable one, and had given no trouble; that at four o'clock numbers who had taken part in it were returning peaceably along Piccadilly on their way home; that the omnibuses were crowded with those proceeding eastward, and the men were still wearing their cards in their hats. The procession moved always at a quick pace—not less than three or three and a half miles an hour.

With regard to numbers, the *Times* puts them at not more than 25,000. The *Daily News* quotes calculations which place the numbers as between 40,000 and 50,000; while others range as high as from 60,000 to 70,000. Probably the former of these estimates will be the nearer the mark. The numbers given by the *Herald* are 30,000.

MEETING AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The real speech-making part of the Reform demonstration took place, at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday evening. The meeting was densely crowded, although a very large proportion of the audience paid for admission. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Potter, and the platform was crowded with delegates, but only two or three M.P.s were visible. The principal orator was Mr. Bright, who spoke for upwards of an hour, severely castigating Tory politicians and affirming that every legislative good, whether social or political, has been carried in the teeth of the opposition of the Tory party. He congratulated the trades' unions on having adopted his advice, given years ago—namely, to use the organisation they possess to carry a reform bill, and exhorted them to go on until they have achieved their object.

THE ACRE AND THE HIDE.—In a primitive state of society, measures are simple enough, and the thumb, the palm, the foot, shod or bare, lie at the base of every system. "Let the ditch be 5 ft. wide by 7 ft. in length, one foot shod, the other bare." Such are the directions in an old Brunswick document, and there was accordingly a slight difference between the "fuss" and the "schuh," to which some of the minor variations in the old German land measures may be traceable. Long after the establishment of a regular standard in England, this kind of measurement remained in force as "customary;" for "le message de Crabbus" was measured by a pole "16 pes d'home in length," and in width the message was 35 poles and 4 large feet, "the feet of a tall man." A "day's work" was often the equivalent of an acre, at other times of half an acre; varying again according as the work was reaping or mowing, ploughing or hoeing; hence the frequent differences in measurements that go by the same name.—*The Gentleman's Magazine*.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Wednesday states that orders have been given at the military ports to make preparations for the return of the French troops from Mexico. All that is known of the Emperor Maximilian, it says, is that he was at Orizaba on the 1st ult. General Sedgwick intended to occupy Matamoros, but was prevented from so doing and censured by General Sheridan. The action of the latter was approved by President Johnson. According to the *Patrie* of Wednesday evening, all the French troops will return to France by the end of January or the beginning of February.

SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Confederation, following the example of other European Governments, has recommended to the Federal Assembly the necessity of considering the question of national armament, on account of the uncertainty which surrounds the political situation in Europe.

ITALY.

There appears to be some doubt about the reported mission of Signor Vegezzi to Rome. One telegram states that he has declined, another that he has accepted, the mission; while a third says that Signor Vegezzi's physicians forbid his journey to Rome, and that Councillor of State Tonello will be appointed negotiator instead.

The Italian Minister of War has appointed a Commission to examine the questions of military recruitment, organisation, and tactics.

The trial of Admiral Persano for the disastrous termination of the battle of Lissa was commenced before the Commission of the Italian Senate on Saturday last. The Admiral was placed under arrest, and is confined in the Senate House.

The 85th Regiment left Rome on Sunday morning to return to France. The officers before their departure paid a farewell visit to the Pope, who bestowed upon them the Apostolic benediction.

PRUSSIA.

Count Bismarck has returned to Berlin, where it has been semi-officially stated that his health is satisfactory, and that he has completely resumed his public duties.

In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, Herr Becker and some other members brought in a resolution requesting the Government to submit a bill to the Chambers without delay, proposing the incorporation of Lauenburg, or else to add paragraphs to that effect to the bill for the incorporation of the duchies of Schleswig-Holstein.

The public prosecutor has filed an appeal in the Court of Cassation against the decision of the Superior Court acquitting Herr Twesten of the charges brought against him. The public prosecutor still demands that Deputy Twesten be sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

A Ministerial conference will be opened, on the 15th inst., at Berlin, at which a scheme of a federal Constitution for North Germany will be definitely settled. The Governments of all the States belonging to the North German Confederation, with the exception of Hesse-Darmstadt, have accepted the invitation addressed to them by Prussia to send representatives to this conference. A Berlin paper gives us the assurance that the scheme of a Constitution for Northern Germany which Prussia has prepared will be found to be most acceptable to the German people, and that it will be calculated to make North Germany united and powerful.

A Royal order has been issued to the Governor-General of Hanover empowering him to suspend all functionaries who fail to carry out the intentions of the Government. Officers and soldiers of the late Hanoverian army who may take part in agitations against Prussia are to be removed to the fortress of Minden, and anyone who insults military men wearing the Prussian uniform is to be tried before a military tribunal.

AUSTRIA.

The debate in the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet on the reply to the Imperial Rescript began on Saturday last. The Left, through several of its speakers, opposed compromise; but the Deak party urged that the only safe course was one of compromise. The Deak party is in the majority, and its counsels will most likely prevail.

The Croatian Diet demands the abolition of the military frontier and the incorporation of Dalmatia with the Croatian kingdom. A committee of twelve has been appointed by the Diet to draw up a resolution based on the negotiations that have taken place between the deputations of the Hungarian and Croatian Diets relative to the future relations between Hungary and Croatia.

Troops are said to have been moved into Galicia, but the exact purpose of the measure is unknown. Rumours are current, however, of agitation among the Poles of that province.

ROUMANIA.

All the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris have assented to the Austrian proposal for a collective recognition of the Prince of Roumania.

CRETE.

The pacification of Candia has not, it appears, been completely effected. Advises reached Constantinople on the 26th ult., reporting a defeat of the Imperial troops, in consequence of which the Turkish Government resolved on dispatching further reinforcements to the island. The Paris *Moniteur* says the native insurrection is quelled, but that foreign adventurers, consisting principally of Greeks and members of the Garibaldian bands, have established themselves in the mountains, and are carrying on a guerrilla warfare against the Turkish troops.

The Greek papers publish a letter from Garibaldi, which concludes thus:—"Let there be a rising in the provinces on the frontiers of Greece, and you may then freely dispose of my services."

EGYPT.

The Viceroy, in his speech at the opening of the Egyptian Legislature, reminded the delegates that his grandfather had put an end to the disorder which had prevailed in Egypt, restored public security, and founded institutions which assure to the country a prosperous future. His Excellency added:—

My father continued the work which had thus been begun, aiming at the creation of an order of things in harmony with the state of modern society. Since my accession, the constant object of my thoughts has been the development of public prosperity. I often thought of establishing a representative council to consider all important questions of an exclusively internal character. Such an institution possesses great advantages, constituting a safeguard and a protection of all interests. I have great satisfaction in now opening this Council, and thank Providence for having permitted me to perform so solemn an act. I confide in your wisdom and in your patriotic sentiments. May God assist our efforts! In Him let us place our trust.

THE UNITED STATES.

Through the Atlantic cable we learn that the American Congress met on the 3rd inst. (Monday), and that the Message of the President was read on the occasion. Of the contents of that document we have but a very brief outline. Mr. Johnson adheres to his former policy of reconstruction, and urges its adoption on Congress; and Secretary McCulloch recommends the resumption of specie payments in 1868. Relative to foreign affairs, the President says foreign nations have lately shown a more just consideration for the national character and rights. He expresses a hope that France will not delay to withdraw her troops from Mexico; and a confident expectation that the Alabama claims will now be considered by the English Government in a friendly spirit.

The other news from New York is of no public interest.

ALLEGED DIVISION IN THE CABINET.—The *Scotsman's* London correspondent writes, on Friday week, that there is a split in the Cabinet. According to his story, Mr. Disraeli has horrified some of the other members of the Cabinet by his Reform proposals, and that he is now endeavouring to bring them to reason by threatening resignation. General Peel is said to have offered to resign rather than consent to any Reform, and only remained at his post at the earnest solicitation of the Earl of Derby.

THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

We have already given several illustrations and some descriptions of the various portions of the works at the Paris Exhibition building as they approached completion, and our Engraving this week represents the view of the building from the Quai du Bile.

The arrangements are now pretty well completed, and a great portion of the ironwork is not only executed but placed in position, so that what will be the general aspect of the grand nave may be made out with tolerable certainty. It is built altogether of wrought iron, thereby presenting a vivid contrast to those structures of a similar character which have been and still are erected in this country. In it will be exhibited all large and heavy machinery of every description, and the various manufacturing operations and processes pertaining to the useful arts will be carried on. Its breadth is 114 ft. 10 in., and total height, 85 ft. 4 in. Between the main columns curtain walls of masonry are carried up to the height of the principal rafters of the side galleries adjoining. Above this height the "Grande nef" is lighted by large windows. About half way up the height of the principal gallery there runs a "promenade," from which a magnificent *coup d'œil* will be obtained of the busy scene below. The curtain walls are a little over 22 ft. in height, and have a thickness of 1 ft. 8 in. They are plastered on both sides, and ornamented with cornices and mouldings on that side facing the principal gallery.

OUR PORTRAIT OF MR. OXFORD.—It should have been stated that the portrait of Mr. John Oxenford, the popular dramatic author and critic, that appeared in our last Number, was engraved from an excellent photograph by Messrs. John and Charles Watkins, photographers, Westminster.

THE CAUSES OF CHOLERA.—The special report of Dr. Corner, district medical officer of health, to the health committee of the Vestry of Mile-end Old Town, upon the cholera epidemic of 1866, contains some very interesting and suggestive information. We find the great cholera-field described as an irregular oblong, bounded upon the south side by the River Thames, on the north by the southern line of the north-east districts—along which runs in a direct line the middle level sewer—on the west by Bishopsgate-street, and on the east by the extreme limits of Bromley, Stratford, Poplar, and West Ham. This area is well defined, and is about four miles in length by two in breadth. In all the districts without the lines, the main drainage is completed and the sewage intercepted; but the districts comprising the area within are still in the same condition as that which was general before the commencement of the great level sewer system. The inference, as Dr. Corner remarks, is perfectly irresistible. His valuable report, which may be read with profit by all who are concerned in the sanitary improvement of districts at present influenced by unfavourable conditions, leaves no point untouched; and one of the subjects called into prominent discussion is the practice of building houses upon marshy land, where no preparatory measures have been taken, by digging below the surface for a foundation, to guard the future occupants of those dwellings against the attacks of malarious disease. The evils of overcrowding and uncleanliness are also set forth in a clear and impressive manner, illustrated by local statistics, for which Dr. Corner confesses his obligation in very great extent to Mr. Cappe, of the London Hospital, and to Mr. J. W. Porteus, whose zeal and care have furnished the returns of cholera mortality in the hamlet of Mile-end Old Town in 1849, 1853, and 1854. The conclusion naturally arrived at by the writer of this report is that, although much sanitary work has been done within the past few weeks, much more remains to be accomplished.

PROGRESS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The annual report of Mr. Boothby, Government statistic, shows that in the year 1865 there was a larger addition to the population of this colony than in any of the last ten years. The increase by immigration was rather larger than the natural increase by excess of births over deaths. The census taken on Lady Day, 1866, found the population 163,452—namely, 85,334 males and 78,118 females. It is a young population, half of it under nineteen years of age. Dividing it otherwise, half the population are between fifteen and fifty-three, and seven-eighths of the other half are under fifteen. The revenue of the year 1865 amounted to £1,089,128, an increase of 42 per cent over that of the previous year, caused chiefly by the great demand for land and the high price paid for it, swelling the produce of the land sales to £504,677, or nearly double the receipt of the previous year, from this source. The customs' duties produced £240,183, being at the rate of 30s. per head of population. The combined export and import trade of 1865 amounted to more than £6,000,000, or double what it was ten years ago. Mr. Boothby says:—"Following upon a year of unexampled prosperity, and one in which the exports of staple produce alone increased to the extent of a million sterling, or 48 per cent, it is not surprising that the total imports of 1865 increased one fifth, and that the enhanced purchasing power of the community necessitated a like advance in the value of goods cleared for home consumption—£2,122,923 and £2,552,407, being the value in the respective years—a difference of £429,484 sterling. In 1865 we consumed in the colony imported goods equal to £16 6s. per head, for each individual of the community (the rate in the previous year being £14 8s. per head), all but a fraction being the manufacture or productions of the mother country and her possessions." In the exports of 1865 a decrease is shown of £175,699, or about 5 per cent below the shipments of 1864, in which year they amounted to the unpreceded sum of £3,305,545 sterling, in 1865 only reaching £3,129,846 in value, showing, however, a large increase upon 1863, and evidencing a satisfactory advance in the producing capabilities of the colony. The value of the raw material exported in 1865 was three-quarters of a million sterling, or nearly one third more than the value of the shipments only two years since. There was a slight decrease during the year in the amount of business done with Victoria; but the transactions with New South Wales showed an increase of nearly 50 per cent.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., vice-president, in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £25 was voted to pay the expenses of the Birmingham No. 2 life-boat of the Institution, stationed at Caistor, Norfolk, for saving the crew of four men, after considerable difficulty, of the schooner Coronation, of London, which was found to be lying fast on the inner Barber Sand, in the midst of the breakers, on the 30th ult. £23 were likewise granted to pay the expenses of the life-boat of the institution stationed at Bacton for rendering assistance, during a heavy gale of wind, to the schooner Swann, of Goole, which was driven ashore at Walcott, Oastend, on the 17th ult. The boat was fortunately the means of saving the crew of four men, who were in the rigging. £7 were also voted to pay the expenses of the Portrush life-boat of the institution for rendering important services to the crew of the barque Coriven, of Londonderry, on the 11th ult. The life-boat afterwards brought ashore the crew of six men of the schooner Margaret Caldwell, of Portrush. Expenses amounting to £32 were also ordered to be paid on the Mundesley old life-boat for saving, in four trips, nine men and two women from four small sloops which were found to be in distress off Mundesley during a gale on the 16th ult. £6 were also voted to the crew of the Thurne life-boat of the institution, for saving the crew of five men of the schooner Annaconda, of Lerwick, which was observed to have her sails split. Rewards amounting to £158 16s. were also granted to the crews of various other life-boats for their services to shipwrecked vessels and their crews during the past month. The silver medal of the institution and a copy of its vote, on parchment, were voted to Mr. William Ronlans, coxswain of the Holyhead life-boat, for his long and valuable services in assisting to save a large number of lives from shipwrecks. The silver medal of the institution, a copy of its vote, on parchment, and £2 were also ordered to be presented to Watkin Lewis, of Aberystwyth, in admiration of his noble conduct in wading into the sea on two occasions, at the risk of his life, and saving seven persons from perishing, one being his own father. Various other rewards were likewise granted for saving life from different wrecks. The meeting ordered £1500 of the funded capital of the institution to be sold out to assist to defray the heavy payments, amounting to £4570, about to be made on its life-boat establishments. It was reported that during the current year the society had expended £29,650 on its 172 life-boat stations, and that in the same period it had contributed to the saving of 831 lives from different wrecks, for which services it had granted £2020 as rewards. A contribution of £50 had been received from the Ryde Amateur Musical Society, being the proceeds of a concert given in that town by that society, on the 13th of September last, in aid of the Isle of Wight life-boat stations. Legacies had been received during the past month from the late Samuel Travis, Esq., of Cheltenham, £100; the late Wm. Pearson, of York, £18; the late John Graham Gilbert, Esq., of Yorkhill, in aid of the Glasgow branch, £100; and the late Mrs. Mary Ann Story, of Kensington, £500, to pay the cost of a life-boat. The sum of £6 7s. had also been received from the Rev. E. S. Corrie, of Maplestead, £17s. of that amount had been collected by the late Master E. B. Corrie, who had for many years past, under the name "Invalid Boy," made a collection for the institution, and the £5 was the amount of his legacy to the society. New life-boats had been sent during the past month to Polkerris, near Fowey, Cornwall; Mundesley, Norfolk; Chapman's Pool, Dorset; and Ilfracombe, Devon. The railway companies had, as usual, kindly given the boats a free conveyance to their destinations. Life-boat demonstrations had taken place with the boats at Rochdale, Fowey, Swanage, and Ilfracombe. A communication was read from Mr. E. P. Bonnissen, of Copenhagen, stating that he had built a life-boat on the plan of the institution; the boat was found to answer the purpose of the locality very well. Life-boat societies were also proposed to be formed, on the plan of the institution, at Scheveningen, Holland, and in Nova Scotia. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats on their recent visits to different life-boat stations on the coast. The proceedings then terminated.



THE PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDING, FROM THE QUAI DE BILLY.



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1866.

CONVERSION OF OUR WOODEN WALLS.

WHAT shall be the character of the Fleet of the future is still to some extent an open question; but there is and can be no question on this point—namely, that wooden line-of-battle ships of the old models are things of the past. Light cruisers of the Alabama class, in which speed is the main thing wanted, may still be built of wood if that material should be found best adapted for securing the feature desired; but for the real work, the hard knocks, the "rough-and-tumble" of war, iron-plated ships, most probably on the turret principle, are indispensable. We already have a number of iron-plated ships of various classes, constructed on the broadside principle, our only real specimen of the turret-ship being the Royal Sovereign, herself a converted vessel. Some others of our old wooden liners were, in accordance with a suggestion of the late Lord Palmerston, converted into iron-clad broadside vessels. Of this character is the Prince Consort, a tolerably good ship, but said to be very wet, and to have a tendency to work severely, and consequently to become strained, in heavy seas. We have still, however, some twenty two and three decker line-of-battle ships, constructed on the old models, of the best materials, and which are said to be the finest and most substantial hulls in the world. These vessels are all, or nearly all, lying idle in our harbours, representing vast sums of public money which is producing no return—yielding no advantage whatever.

These fabrics it is proposed to cut down and convert into turret-ships, capable of carrying heavy guns such as it would seem modern warfare, particularly naval warfare, imperatively calls for. Two schemes have, we believe, been submitted to the Admiralty for accomplishing this most desirable process of conversion. One of these is by Mr. C. F. Henwood, a gentleman of large experience as a naval constructor; and the other is the invention of Mr. Nicholas Enour, who has given much attention to this class of inventions. These schemes are similar in principle, we believe, and differ mainly in details. Into their respective merits we do not feel ourselves competent to enter; but there can be no difficulty in the Admiralty obtaining the aid of men thoroughly able to decide all points in doubt; and if, as we are told, our useless wooden ships can be converted into effective turret-carrying vessels for about £100,000 apiece, or £2,200,000 for converting twenty ships, whereas a like number of new ironclads would cost us at least £5,000,000, the experiment of conversion, on the plan proposed by Mr. Henwood, on that of Mr. Enour, or on some other that may best commend itself to the approval of competent persons, is, at all events, worth a trial, and we hope soon to see it made.

LONDON OMNIBUSES.

We suppose most of our readers—those resident in or near London, at all events—have frequent occasion to ride in the omnibuses which ply in the streets of the metropolis, and must have experienced the inconvenience, uncomforatableness, and even sometimes positive nastiness, of these vehicles. It is now a good many years since the London General Omnibus Company was formed, and we were promised all sorts of reforms in our vehicular means of locomotion: new and improved omnibuses were to be constructed; a system of correspondence was to have been instituted; better means of ingress and egress to the interior, and of access to the roofs of the machines, were to be devised; and we know not what further benefits were to have been conferred upon the public. So far as we can see, not one of these promises has been fulfilled, except that since

1862 a few omnibuses on the Manchester style have been added to the old-school vehicles of the company. In every other respect we are—just as we were. The bulk of the company's omnibuses are still small, confined, steamy, stuffy affairs, which it is impossible either to pass into or out of without treading on the toes or kicking the shins of other passengers. The style of garments worn by ladies just now, and the mess they get into from dragging along the muddy pavement in this wet, wintry weather, make the confined interior of a London omnibus something to be dreaded by all who have the least desire for cleanliness of clothes or person. Dire are the smearings, and fetid the atmosphere, which unlucky "insides" have to endure, while the ascent to the box-seat and knife-board is as perilous as ever. In short, we are still in as sorry a plight, as regards omnibus accommodation, as we were before the advent of the General Omnibus Company, with this additional disadvantage, that a practical monopoly in the omnibus traffic of London has been established. It seems of no use for any private individual to attempt to give us the benefit of competition. Whenever such an attempt is made, the company at once resort to "nursing" and other expedients, and the rival vehicle is speedily driven off the road. Thoroughly Conservative in their system of management are the directors of the London General Omnibus Company. They will neither effect reforms themselves nor let others take up the work. How long is this state of things to continue? The people of London are a patient and long-suffering race; but surely there is a limit to even their powers of endurance.

There is a tempting field for enterprise presented here. The company make a good thing of it, and divide fair dividends among their shareholders. Why should not other companies, with sufficient capital, step into the field, and serve themselves and the public at one and the same time? The existing company may be all powerful as against individual competitors; but an organisation on a like scale to their own would not fail to put them on their mettle; and increasing and improving the accommodation would certainly have the usual result of such measures—that, namely, of attracting increased custom, and so all parties would be benefited.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN and Royal family will pay a mournful visit to the Prince Consort's mausoleum in Frogmore gardens on the 14th inst., being the fifth anniversary of the death of that great and good Prince.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL has been postponed to the 14th inst.

WHEN THE KING OF ITALY arrived in Florence after the Venetian fêtes he was met by Baron Riccasoli, who offered him his hand. "No," said Victor Emmanuel, "let us embrace each other!" and he suited the action to the word.

THE EX-KING OF HANOVER has yielded to the representations of England, and released the officers of the late Hanoverian army from their oath of allegiance to him.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL OF FRANCE has adopted the Highland costume, and is reading Charles Dickens's works.

THE QUEEN has given a stained-glass window to the parish church of Sidmouth. It is dedicated to the memory of her Majesty's father, the late Duke of Kent, who died at Sidmouth while she was an infant.

LORD COWLEY, who will quit his post in Paris at the close of the Exhibition, will most likely be replaced by Sir Henry Bulwer, formerly English Ambassador at Constantinople.

MR. ALDERMAN PHILLIPS, the late Lord Mayor of London, is to receive the honour of knighthood in recognition of the admirable manner in which he filled the civic chair during his year of office.

UPWARDS OF 100,000 SNAILS are daily consumed in Paris.

MR. R. ARTHUR ARNOLD has addressed a letter to the various local boards in Lancashire announcing that the office of the Public Works Act, established during the cotton famine, will be closed after the 21st inst.

THE FACULTY OF PARIS has just conferred the degree of "Bachelier-ès-Sciences" on a young lady named Mlle. Marie Brasset.

HER MAJESTY, following the precedent given by her predecessors William III. and George III., and in gracious remembrance of the place of her birth and education, has subscribed the sum of £200 to the building-fund of the new parish church of Kensington.

THE WHEAT CROP of the United States this year, it is estimated, will be 180,000,000 bushels; of oats, 272,000,000 bushels; of rye, 21,000,000; and of barley, 11,500,000.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT desires to resume the negotiations for a treaty of commerce with England, unfortunately interrupted by the war.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., it has been satisfactorily shown, during the cotton famine contributed liberally to the fund for the relief of the sufferers. Persistent standers on the subject have compelled the publication of proofs which would otherwise never have seen the light.

THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE SPANISH ARMY, who are all tainted with Liberalism, have been dismissed in such numbers that the artillery were recently reviewed without one sergeant in the ranks.

THE TRADES OF DUMFRIES are proposing to have a demonstration in favour of Reform. Saturday, the 22nd inst., has been fixed upon by the committee who have been intrusted with the arrangements as the day on which it should be held.

MR. R. C. HANBURY, M.P., announces that arrangements are being made for a meeting of the laity, under the presidency of a distinguished nobleman, to consider what steps should be taken to put a stop to the "pernicious nonsense" in the Church of England.

FURTHER EXPERIMENTS were made on Monday, at Shoeburyness, with the Palliser shot and shell. The general results confirmed the value of those missiles, and lead to the inference that it will be by shell and not by shot that the thickest armour-plates will hereafter be penetrated.

MR. GUTHRIE SMITH, who was for some time Sheriff-substitute at Forfar, an appointment which he filled with distinguished success, but voluntarily resigned about four years ago, has been appointed Sheriff-substitute at Dundee.

THE IRON CROWN is shortly to resume its place in Monza Cathedral. This restitution is to be attended with some pomp, and when the Prefect of Milan shall have announced the day fixed for it, a high Court functionary will be despatched to Monza to be present at it.

FERDINAND MARTIN, living near Falaise, in Normandy, sold his wife and a cupboard for the sum of 5f. to a neighbour, named Vautier. Vendor and buyer were both prosecuted at the assizes, because Mdme. Martin refused to ratify the contract, and a great deal more violence was used than necessary in the transfer of the chattel. The Court condemned Ferdinand Martin to the galleys for eight years, and Vautier to five years' imprisonment.

AN IRISH ROW took place near West Hartlepool, on Saturday last, when a body of men with pikes, who called themselves Fenians, took possession of the cellar of a respectable inn, and helped themselves to its contents. The police were sent for, but ere they arrived the rioters had decamped. Three of their pikes, most formidable weapons, with steel heads a foot long, were found the next day near the scene of action.

A SWEDISH SLOOP OF WAR went ashore at Jury's Gap, near Dungeness, on Wednesday, and became a complete wreck. There were 134 persons on board, of whom twelve were lost by the upsetting of two boats, which broke adrift before they were fully manned; but the remainder, it is satisfactory to learn, were rescued by means of the rocket apparatus worked by the coastguard stationed by the Board of Trade at Jury's Gap.

THE LATEST ACCOUNTS FROM IRELAND state that arrests of Fenians continue to be made, and that Yankee-looking fellows continue to flock into the country. The general public, however, appear to be perfectly reassured by the vigour and precautionary steps taken by Government, which will, no doubt, render nugatory any attempts to create disturbance. The regular troops now in Ireland exceed 22,000 men, and the armed police constitute a very efficient and powerful force.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THIS reform agitation seems to be developing very much as the old agitation did in 1833. But it is a long way yet from the alarming type which its predecessor assumed. We may, though, fairly prognosticate that it will grow even to that if our rulers should prove to be as obstinate and unwise as our rulers were thirty-six years ago. But I do not believe that they will. What will happen no one can foresee; but I cannot think that the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli will be so doggedly obstinate as the old Tory leaders were. At present the agitation, though growing, is not alarming; but, unless concessions be made, it will certainly become so. In 1833, as far as I remember, the agitation for reform was by no means serious; and if the Duke of Wellington and his colleagues had made some slight concessions, such as consenting to enfranchising several large towns, the nascent agitation would have been quenched at once; but they declared against all reform, would not grant the smallest concession; and, when they had to go out, and the Whigs came in and proposed a bill, the Tory chiefs proclaimed war to the knife against all change. And then we know what happened. The smouldering embers burst out into a flame, and soon all the country was wrapped in a frightful conflagration. In short, as Bright said at St. James's Hall, we were, just before the Duke and his party gave way, within twenty-four hours of a revolution. Will Derby and Disraeli push matters to such an extremity? Will they wait till taxes are refused; till the ominous words appear on our walls again, "Pay no taxes! Run for gold!" till pikes are manufactured; till thousands of men in the north threaten to march on London, and the Commander-in-Chief has to sound his soldiers, and get alarmingly dubious answers? I should decide promptly—certainly not. At all events, be sure of this—Disraeli will enter upon no such wild crusade as this.

I do not believe that Disraeli has resigned, or has any immediate purpose to resign. The report of his resignation, which the London correspondent of the *Scotsman* picked up, has no truth in it; at least, so I hear from good authorities. But I suspect that the report may be merely premature. That there are differences in the Cabinet I have no doubt, and that these differences may lead to collisions which will pitch somebody out of the Cabinet, and, perhaps, break it up, seems to me to be more than likely; and, if the collisions should lead to no further immediate change than the resignation of one Minister, Disraeli, no doubt, will be the one. But, mind you, if Disraeli should go, the days of the Tory Government will be numbered. If they cannot work with him, assuredly they cannot exist without him. He is the brains of the Government, and when the brains are out the Government will die. Besides, we must remember that the excision of Disraeli will not be merely the loss of so much power. If he be not with them, he will be against them. Such an ambitious soldier as he is can never be neutral. The extrusion or resignation of Disraeli will, then, be the certain ruin of the Conservative Government. But will he alone resign? I fancy not. I rather incline to the belief that the Government will all at once go to pieces. That such a heterogeneous mass of incongruities can hang together long I cannot believe. Could Cobden have worked with George Bentinck—not Lord George, but George of West Norfolk? Or could Stuart Mill move smoothly with Lord Cranbourne? You laugh at the notion. Well, then, neither can Disraeli and Lord Stanley work long with Cranbourne, or General Peel, or Lord John Manners. For a time Disraeli and Stanley may consent to narrow their minds, or rather, say, to degrade them, to the level of their colleagues. But this cannot last long. Nature will out; intellect will assert its rights. You will, perhaps, say that Lord Cranbourne has intellect; and so he has, and it is sharp and acute, but it is not capacious.

A correspondent at Colchester informs me that the Mr. Karslake who is announced to stand for that borough is not the Solicitor-General that is, or is to be; but his brother. There is a rumour that the new Solicitor-General is to get into Parliament through the Cornish borough St. Ives. If this be so, is the present member, Mr. Paull, to be bought out by some good permanent place?

The letter, in another column, signed A. B. Lond., and for showing me which, as well as the one that accompanies it, I beg to thank you, calls my attention to a blunder in my communication last week which needed correction. I knew the difference between the University of London and University College well enough. The mistake was simply a slip of the pen. I ought to know all about the University of London, for I remember its institution, and have been lately refreshing my memory by reading the history of its foundation in Charles Knight's autobiography. Moreover, I have a son who is a graduate of the U.L. With respect to the authorship of "Ecce Homo," I can only say that it was confidently asserted that Professor Seeley is the author; and, as far as I know, the imputation has not been authoritatively denied.

On the letter from "One to whom 'Ecce Homo' has been attributed" I could say much, but my time is occupied, and your space is limited; and therefore I must leave the contents of this letter unchallenged. I must say, though, that I have read one paragraph with something of the amazement which the writer says that he read my paragraph. I refer to that which tells us that Mr. Martineau, if elected, would not teach a philosophy—his own or any one else's—but philosophy. Of course, we all know that there can be but one philosophy. Mr. Martineau confidently believes that his is the *one*; and it seems to me that Mr. Martineau would and ought to teach what he believes to be true. He would, of course, teach the *history* of all philosophy; but when he came to teach philosophy itself he would, one would think, teach that which he believes; or is the chair of philosophy founded for the teaching only the *history* of philosophy, and not philosophy itself?

How marvellously edifying is the example set before mere men of the world by the parsons! Man's inhumanity to man and woman's cruelty to woman have long been themes of reprobation by the poet, the satirist, and the moralist. But the uncharitableness of clergyman to clergyman beats both hollow. *Par exemple*—The Rev. Lord Sydney Godolphin Osborne condemns Ritualism and the doings of the Ritualists. He lamented, in a letter to the *Times*, that the Bishops not only do not condemn, but in some instances positively support, the new and fantastic vagaries of certain clergymen. And the rev. gentleman straightway is rebuked by the greatest of the offenders, the Bishop of Salisbury, who not only defends the Ritualists, but sanctions all the claims made by them to priestly power. Nothing daunted, Lord Godolphin returns to the charge, and shows that another Bishop, the saponaceous Prelate of Oxford, countenances Ritualism so far as to have his photograph taken in full Ritualistic fig. Hereupon there is a grand row. One newspaper correspondent (in the columns of the *Standard* his lucubration appeared) boldly affirms that the photograph in question was never sat for by the Bishop, but is a mere speculation got up from a lay figure dressed in the approved Ritualistic style of vesture; and soundly is the Rev. Lord abused by this scribe for malice, stupidity, gullibility, and so forth. But, unfortunately for the effect of this explanation, out comes the Bishop's secretary with a full admission of all the facts alleged by the Rev. Osborne, coupled, of course, with a vindication of the Prelate. The photograph was a photograph of Dr. Wilberforce; he did wear the vestments and adopt the postures described; but this is common, and the Bishop is a good man, should not have been so attacked, &c. All this is well enough; it would have been a pity, and a wonder, too, if a man like the Bishop of Oxford could have found no champion. But mark the charity of the Prelate's secretary—John M. Davenport high—who, not content with defending his principal, must have a stab—and a foul one—at Lord Godolphin! Mr. Davenport concludes his letter thus: "I would kindly remind Lord Godolphin Osborne of what the late Lord Melbourne called him—'a disappointed, popularity-hunting parson.' Kindly remind Lord Godolphin Osborne!" Yes! oh! so kindly. Save me from the kindness of John M. Davenport, Bishop's secretary, and, I suppose, reverend preacher of the gospel of charity and brotherly love. But is Mr. Davenport quite sure that it was the late Lord Melbourne—by which designation, I presume, he means the minister Lord Melbourne—who made the remark he quotes, if

it was ever made at all? Lord Godolphin Osborne graduated B.A. at Oxford in 1830; Lord Melbourne retired from public life in 1841, and died in 1849. Surely eleven years or so—the period during which the so called ambitious person could have been hunting for distinction, or Lord Melbourne would be likely to have noticed him—was no long probation for a clergyman to pass in minor positions, even though the brother of the heir to a dukedom, Lord Godolphin Osborne, however, was not without promotion even in that period, having obtained the rectory of Stoke Pogis, near Eton, shortly after his ordination, whence he was transferred to Durweston, Dorset, in 1841. So he could not have been very greatly disappointed; and he never lacked popularity at any time. But Mr. Davenport is not alone; of course not. Other columnists—reverends too, I suppose—take upon them to describe Lord Godolphin Osborne as a mere “hunting, shooting, fishing, croquet-playing, dining-out person”—things which he notoriously is not, or the popular idea of the rev. gentleman’s character is utterly fallacious. But, bah! what does it matter? It is not always deemed necessary to wait for truth when to damage a dangerous opponent is the work in hand, is it?

Another person—the Rev. Dr. Cumming—has been affording an edifying spectacle likewise, though in a different line. He has been teaching, or has been understood to have been teaching, that this year, 1866, was to witness the second advent and the end of all mundane things; at all events, some mighty cataclysm was to happen. Well, the year has nearly gone, but the doctor’s catastrophe has not come; and so the rev. prophet has to take greater scope for the fulfilment of his predictions, and this he does by correcting himself while pretending to correct some one else. Well, this may be all very right. Dr. Cumming may vary his predictions as he pleases, and advertise his books at the same time, as he does in the course of the correction above referred to. He has made prophecy-mongering pay for years past, and well too; but what about the silly people who believe his predictions, who trust to his interpretations of Scripture, and have their weak heads upset in consequence? I don’t mix much in what is called “serious” circles—I am too much of a worldling, too much of the earth earthy, for that—but yet even I know of several cases of persons having their minds gravely unhinged through apprehensions of what was to happen this year, in accordance with Dr. Cumming’s predictions. Very close to the verge of insanity these persons were driven, and they are only now beginning to recover from their fright. When I know of a few such cases, a great many must have happened. Silly women and weak men much do abound, my Rev. Doctor, and, though prophesying dire calamities may be fun—and profit—to you, it is not greatly better—if it be not even worse—than death to those who trust in your vaticinations. You may have been misunderstood; but then you could not have expressed yourself with sufficient clearness on so vital a point, and much mischief has been the result. Pray be more cautious and more precise in your interpretations for the future.

I understand that the drawings and sketches of the late Paul Gray, whose early death (a few weeks ago) deprived the world of a promising and already a most delightful artist, are about to be sold for the benefit of his family. They comprise several water-colour drawings and the designs for most of the cartoons and other drawings which he contributed to *Fun*. The water-colour pictures prove that, in addition to his very graceful drawing, he had a fine eye for colour and composition. That he was most conscientious and painstaking is evidenced, among other things, by the fact that the collection of designs for his illustrations to Mr. Dutton Cook’s story, “Hobson’s Choice,” which ran through about a dozen numbers of *Once a Week*, forms almost a little volume, so numerous were the studies of various groups and figures which the artist made ere he could satisfy himself. The portfolios are in Mr. Hood’s care at the *Fun* office, where they may be inspected by those who desire to purchase.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the last number of the *Fortnightly Review* Mr. Lewes takes his farewell as editor. He says some things with which I do not agree. For example, he gives some advice to the young authoress of “Aunt Margaret’s Troubles” which is very good advice if her object is to write well, irrespective of “success”—very bad advice if what she wants is a large public. Again, Mr. Lewes lays what appears to me to be a scarcely justifiable degree of stress upon the importance of a signed literature. All this comes with questionable effect from him, too, because he has twice (if not oftener) admitted unsigned articles into his *Review*; twice, if not oftener, articles signed with a pseudonym; and invariably allowed his political article to go unsigned. All the talk in the world can’t save such a situation from absurdity. “Exceptions—special cases?” On! I dare say. But sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. In one part of his “Farewell Causerie” I heartily agree with Mr. Lewes. He justly convicts the advocates of anonymity of ignoble inconsistency, when, while maintaining the right of anonymity in journalism, they deny it to authors. Some lady writes “George Geith,” and does not put her name to it. This is a plain indication that she doesn’t want her name to be mentioned. But the whole pack of country correspondents and reviewers go yelping and panting about till they find out who it is. The same with George Eliot, who is immediately written of by a name which she would prefer not to have used. The same with the author of “Ecce Homo.” It was most distinctly stated—I heard it many months ago—that the author did not wish his name to be known, because he desired to avoid giving pain to aged relatives. Yet, for how long have an enlightened press been yelping at the heels of the author! It was Mr. Gladstone; it was George Eliot (but that guess was the guess of fools only); it was Mr. R. H. Hutton; it was the Rev. John Hamilton Thom; it was Mr. Froude; it was half a dozen other people. But what business was it of anybody’s? I maintain, Sir, that the whole of this name-hunting, name-printing business is dishonourable; and Mr. Lewes might justly have used stronger words about it than he has actually used. However, I am glad to see him “off” the editorship of the *F. R.*, and have always regretted to see him “on” it—because he might be better employed. I have received the *Fortnightly* too late to notice its general contents this week. The foregoing lines were written upon the strength of my recollection of what I had a glimpse of in an early copy.

I see, Mr. Editor, some of your contemporaries have been justly insisting, apropos of Mr. Martineau and a certain professorship, upon the necessarily unsectarian character of the office in question. Yet people overlook the fact that though there is only one true philosophy, it is impossible to teach philosophy in the sense of *dictating* it—i.e., as you teach arithmetic. All teaching of philosophy is essentially a criticism appealing to the judgment of the taught.

Blackwood is the best number I have seen for some time. The articles on “Social Hyperbol” and on “Victor Hugo” are, on the whole, the best things the month’s magazines contain. By all means, then, read *Blackwood*.

Of the *Cornhill* I have not much to say. Mr. Tyrwhitt’s poem, “Gennesaret,” is good. “A Kangaroo Drive” is a very entertaining account of a kangaroo hunt and kangaroo slaughter, which was made necessary by the pressure of the animals (queer caricatures they are, don’t you think?) upon the real needs of the men and cattle in the district. As to “The Claverings,” it is, of course, clever; but I am unable to report that Mr. Trollope shows any signs of being able to recall our sympathies from Lady Ongar and the lover to those miffed the Burtons. The “sensation paper” of the number, I suppose, is that on “Medieval Warfare,” in which readers who care for the military character of Richard Cœur de Lion will find something to interest them. But, really, he’s too far off, isn’t he? The “Views of Vienna” are evidently from a peculiarly competent hand.

In *Macmillan* there is another article on Clough—yes, another!—evidently from the pen of the gentleman who succeeded him in a certain chair in 1852; and it is a nice article. The best paper yet out on “November Star-showers” is to be found in *Macmillan*,

I assure you; and Mr. Norman Lockyer is the writer of it. The Rev. J. L. Davies on “The Poor Law and Charity” is the sort of paper that a few journalists will chop up into leading articles—without acknowledgment.

In *Temple Bar* the most amusing things are Mr. Edmund Yates’s “Ad Ceciliam” and “Gup”—batch of Anglo-Indian recollections, by “Florence Marryatt.” But *Temple Bar* latterly has, I think, been gravitating towards amateurishness.

The *Churchman’s Family Magazine* is to be discontinued. I am sorry for this, and regret having to part with “the inevitable Walsingham.”

The *Victoria*, for once, has a thoroughly good, while characteristic, number. I wish this magazine were a little more equal, and that it contained, in general, less amateur matter.

Of *Aunt Judy* there is, again, scarcely anything to be said but what is cheerful and commendatory. The present number contains a very nice drawing-room extravaganza for children. This magazine has, indeed, one ever-present defect; but I will not touch it hastily, even by giving it a name. Unless the gifted and kind-hearted Editor should find it out, and, by remedying it, stop my mouth in the meanwhile, I will refer to it with due deliberation another day.

In *Once a Week* and the *Intellectual Observer*, and *Christian Society and London Society*, I find nothing deserving special notice, except, perhaps, the airy gaiety of Miss Thomas’s “Charlie Carew” (in the last-named magazine), and the coarseness of Miss Claxton’s drawing to the text.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Amid the many dramatic failures that have characterised the autumn and winter of 1866, it is pleasant to record that Miss M. Oliver’s bright little company at the *NEW ROYALTY* is answering its manageress’s most sanguine expectations. Swells have begun to discover that amid the dank and dreary thoroughfares of Soho there is a pleasant little theatre, tenanted by a sparkling company, and superintended by one of the liveliest actresses of domestic comedy on the London stage. The situation of the *New Royalty* is a difficult thing to find. The wayfarer from Piccadilly and the south may spend many weary half-hours in threading the intricacies of Soho in his endeavours to find it, and eventually have to give it up as a bad job, unless he has enjoyed the advantage of a long practical acquaintance with the tortuous regions of Petty Europe. To a wayfarer who has not enjoyed that advantage, I would say that there are two courses open to him by which he may reach the desired haven in safety. The easiest course is to take a hansom; the most adventurous is to go round by Oxford-street and keep his eye upon the streets that branch south from that thoroughfare between the Pantheon and Soho-square. One of these streets is Dean-street, and a hundred yards down Dean-street, on the right-hand side, is the *New Royalty*. Mr. Craven’s clever little comedy, “Meg’s Diversion,” is now followed by Mr. Burnand’s burlesque, “Black-eyed Susan,” which is as full of bustle and rollicking fun as the most enthusiastic lover of such good things can desire. Truth compels me to admit that the burlesque itself is not happily constructed, and the puns and versification are hardly up to Mr. Burnand’s mark; but the piece is beautifully placed upon the stage, and the “business” is the best of its kind that I remember to have seen in England. The piece is full of reckless fun, and Mr. Burnand has atoned for his shortcomings in the matter of the libretto by the excellent fooling that he has introduced into the situations. The fun is more French in its tone than anything that I have seen for a long while. The weight of the burlesque rests on the shoulders of Mr. F. Dewar and Miss M. Oliver; and they are, as we all know, fully equal to any emergency. Mr. Dewar’s Captain Crosstree is an admirable specimen of pure burlesque without a trace of vulgarity. He is as broad in his fun as a clown in a pantomime, while at the same time he shows a marvellous appreciation of genuine humour and always contrives to draw the line between broad burlesque and mere buffoonery. There is only one drawback to the piece, Dame Hatly is played by Mr. Danvers, and it takes a marvellously delicate actor to render a woman’s character filled by a man at all endurable to an educated taste.

A curious entertainment was given, privately, to the principal members of the press on Thursday week at the *EGYPTIAN HALL*. A Mr. Ernest Schultze, who, I believe, is as well known in Germany as Mr. Arthur Sketchley is in England, undertook, by mere facial contortion, to express about twenty different familiar types of humanity. As the entertainment was given on the night on which the *New Royalty* burlesque was produced, I was only able to be present at it for half an hour; but I saw enough to convince me that, as an “entertainer,” Mr. Schultze is not only extremely clever, but, what is better, extremely original. I believe that he intends to give his entertainment publicly after Christmas.

HER MAJESTY’S THEATRE has been closed for some days, owing to the illness of Mr. Falconer; but it reopened on Thursday.

The theatres are making frantic efforts to get their Christmas pieces ready by Boxing Night. I believe that I am not betraying any confidence when I state that the Covent Garden pantomime is founded on the story of the “Forty Thieves,” and is from the pen of Mr. Gilbert-a-Beckett; the Adelphi burlesque is to be a new edition of the “Lady of the Lake,” by Mr. Andrew Halliday; the Prince of Wales’s burlesque is to be called “Pandora Box,” and is, of course, written by Mr. Byron; and the St. James’s is furnished with an operatic burlesque, by an untried hand. Mr. E. L. Blanchard is, of course, to the fore at Drury Lane.

The entertainments at that old and favourite institution the *ROYAL POLYTECHNIC* have this week been varied by the introduction of a startling novelty, which I learn is all the rage just now in Paris. It is another of those optical illusions which have been so successfully brought before the public at the Polytechnic, and is called the “Decapitated Head,” the illusion consisting in making the head of a political conspirator which has just been separated from his body answer certain questions. This is done in a very sepulchral tone, and seemingly in a truly supernatural manner. Great pains have been taken to make the illusion as effective as possible. The stage is converted into the dimly-lighted cellar of the executioner, who himself keeps guard on one side with his terrible two-handed sword. On a table at the back lies the head, apparently just as it had been cut off, and in front a seer asks it questions. The head turns slowly, the eyes open, and the lips begin to move. In another minute the seer gets the desired response, and the head falls back inanimate and deathlike as before. The whole affair is exceedingly well managed, and has been enthusiastically received by numerous audiences since its first production on Monday. Professor Pepper does not vouch for the truth of the story told in this exhibition, and wisely, for there is one slight incongruity which is at once apparent. The “decapitated head” declares that full justice has been done by the death of the conspirator to which said head belonged, implying thereby that he had no accomplices; in which case it is difficult to understand how there could have been a *conspiracy of one*. But that is of little consequence. It is not the story, but the optical illusion which is the attraction in Regent-street. Exception might also be taken to the title of the illusion—namely, “The Decapitated Head;” for considering that decapitation means the removal of the *caput*, or head, a decapitated head must, logically speaking, mean just nothing at all. One might as well talk of a disembodied body, or of an inanimate soul. I may mention that Mr. Pepper delivers a new and highly interesting lecture on the invisible rays of heat, in the course of which Dr. Tyndall’s beautiful experiments are reproduced; that three new staircases have been added, or are about to be added, as means of ingress and egress to the Polytechnic; and that great improvements have been effected in the ventilation of both the large and the small theatre.

The “Yachting Cruise” will, I understand, shortly be withdrawn, at the *ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION*, in order to enable Mr. German Reed to revive Mr. Tom Taylor’s romantic entertainment, “The Family Legend,” originally produced in 1861. Freshness will, moreover, be given to this performance by the introduction of new scenery, dresses, &c.

I am glad to say that the lectures at the *CRYSTAL PALACE* have been

a decided success. On nearly every occasion the audience has been numerous, attentive, and apparently greatly interested. Mr. A. A. Fry was the lecturer on the 22nd and 29th ult., his subjects being “Lord Erskine and the Bar” on the first-named day, and “Edmund Burke” on the second, and on both occasions he was warmly received. The managers, I understand, are greatly encouraged by the success which has attended their efforts in this department of the entertainments at the palace, and mean to persevere in labouring in the same direction. I give them a hearty “God speed!”

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, AND REV. MR. MARTINEAU.

(To the Lounger at the Clubs.)

Dear Mr. Lounger,—I write to correct a confusion of mind into which you, along with many others, have fallen, in your article of this week, in it you say “the Rev. James Martineau was a candidate for the chair of Logic and Mental Philosophy in the University of London, and was rejected,” &c.

This is a total mistake. It is true that Mr. Martineau was a candidate for the chair of Logic in University College, Gower-street, London, which, however, is a totally distinct institution from the University of London. The University of London is a body of men consisting of Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Senate, and Examiners, located at Burlington House, Piccadilly. To this University are affiliated University College, in Gower-street; King’s College, in the Strand; the various Roman Catholic colleges scattered throughout the country; all the metropolitan, and some of the provincial, medical schools. The students from these various colleges—who are candidates for the London degrees in arts, science, law, and medicine—present themselves for examination at the University of London, Burlington House; Burlington House, a University College, and a Roman Catholic College student can meet. These students are examined by the same examiners, appointed by the University, all of whom are most eminent men in their various branches of study. Nay, so *Catholic* (in the true sense of the word) is the University of London, that it will even examine, and, after due examination, grant degrees in arts and science to men who—though they do not belong to any college—have, by private tuition or study, gained the requisite proficiency. The stringency of the examinations is so great, however, that there is no fear of the degrees of the University being conferred upon incompetent persons. You will see, therefore, that the true function of the University of London is not teaching, but examination. The University of London does not teach, further than by prescribing, in its printed regulations and calendar, the course of study which each student will have to undergo, and upon which he will be examined by the University examiners at Burlington House.

In another paragraph of your article you say that Professor Seeley, the author of “Ecce Homo,” is Vice-Dean of the University of London. This, of course, is also a mistake. Professor Seeley may be Vice-Dean of University College, Gower-street, London; but he has in reality no more connection with the University of London than you have. I hope you will publish this letter in your next week’s Number, because it is always valuable to have errors corrected—especially an error of this kind—which is, I know, shared in by many people besides yourself.

Before concluding, I may mention that the sum of £20,000 (the first portion of a total grant of £60,000) was this year voted by Parliament for the purpose of erecting a public building for the University of London at Burlington House. This building is at present in course of erection in Burlington Gardens, Piccadilly. When completed, it will, I dare say, do much to correct that popular fallacy—viz., that University College, Gower-street, is the University of London.

Your obedient servant,

B. A. LOND.

(To the Lounger at the Clubs.)

Sir,—I have read, with amazement, your paragraph upon the difficulty in Gower-street. To say that any man living put forward as qualified to fill the chair vacated by Dr. Hoppus is rejected because he is not “an eminent mental philosopher” is surely *mauvaise plaisanterie*. Was Dr. Hoppus more “eminent” than Mr. Martineau is? At all events, I have read (whether truly or untruly, I know not) that, being requested to give his opinion upon the claims of the several candidates, Dr. Hoppus said that, so long as Mr. Martineau’s name was upon the list, it was quite unnecessary for him to give an opinion.

As you, however, do give an opinion, off-hand, upon the qualifications of a man of European reputation like Mr. Martineau, I do not doubt you have made mental philosophy and logic the chief business of your life—since nothing less could entitle you to speak in that manner. Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Mansel, and others have not thought it beneath them to reply to the criticisms of Mr. Martineau; and Mr. Lewes (standing, like Mr. Mill, at the opposite pole of opinion) has thought it no shame to speak of the “amazing subtlety” of Mr. Martineau as a thinker. To quote the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—“Mr. Martineau’s logical, metaphysical, and psychological essays are widely read amongst all students of philosophy, and to his subtle criticisms Mr. John Stuart Mill himself has repeatedly, in later editions of his ‘Logic,’ found himself compelled to reply. There has been no question at all amongst the candidates as to the one who had produced the highest testimonial of learning and of teaching power. From a very small number of pupils Mr. Martineau had, we believe, sent up three or four pupils to the examination in intellectual philosophy and logic at the University of London’s M.A. examination who had obtained the gold medal; and the professors of University College, after examining the testimonials, did not hesitate to tell the council that Professor Martineau had produced the largest evidence of qualification for the chair.” And it is said that no less a person than Professor De Morgan has resigned his office in the College in sheer indignation at the rejection of Mr. Martineau.

As for Mr. Martineau’s philosophy, “such as it is,” I take the liberty of doing what you decline to do—namely, “go into particulars.” The philosophy Mr. Martineau teaches is not Mr. Martineau’s; it is simply the modern form of the philosophy which is loosely but sufficiently indicated when it is said to derive from Plato rather than Aristotle; to be “opposed to the school of Locke;” and to be indebted for much of its acceptance in our own days to men like Maine de Biran, Royer Collard, Jouffroy, and Victor Cousin. But no one has done so much for it—“such as it is”—in England as Mr. Martineau.

This philosophy has, from the beginning of thought, commanded at least the half the suffrages of the world; and it does so now, though it is not in the ascendant anywhere—certainly not at Cambridge. Yet they have just elected Mr. Maurice to a professorship there, in which the tendencies of that very philosophy (under the modifications supplied by a mind like that of Mr. Maurice) will inevitably have wide scope.

And this leads me to my last remark. Mr. Martineau, or anyone else who might be elected to fill the post in question, would not be sent thither to teach a philosophy—his own or anyone else’s—but to teach philosophy. His own opinion would undoubtedly colour his teaching; but his office would (of course) be to make the students acquainted with all systems of philosophy and logic with as much impartiality as human nature would permit. I should have thought this was obvious.

Mr. Martineau’s eloquence, and the fact that he is a *preacher*, have tended to throw his other qualifications into the shade, and his acuteness in attack has made him obnoxious to the metaphysical Extreme Left; but your paragraph is the first intimation I ever read or heard that he was not qualified to hold his own in a chair of mental philosophy and logic. For my part, I take sides with the *Spectator* and the *Pall Mall Gazette* in thinking the rejection of Mr. Martineau a scandal, an infamy, a disgrace to the rejectors, and an insult to the public opinion of Europe and America. In that country, indeed, the rejection is, I am sure, arousing echoes that will not soon die away. It will astonish America more than your paragraph astonished me, and I never in all my life read in a newspaper a paragraph that astonished me so much.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE AUTHORS TO WHOM “ECCE HOMO” HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED.

THE LORD RECTORSHIP OF ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.—The election of a successor to Earl Russell in the Rectorial Chair of the University of Aberdeen takes place on the 21st of the present month, and, as usual, the event is creating considerable stir among the students, with whom rests the privilege of making the appointment. Two gentlemen, well known in the political and literary world—Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., and Mr. George Grote, the eminent historian—have been solicited by different sections of the students to stand for the chair, and both have consented. A meeting of the students was held on Saturday afternoon last, when the majority appeared to be in favour of Mr. Duff. Lord Stanley’s name was also put forward and was well received. In the case of three candidates standing, the probability would be that Mr. Duff would be returned; but should the supporters of the other two candidates unite in favour of Mr. Grote, the contest will likely be a close one.

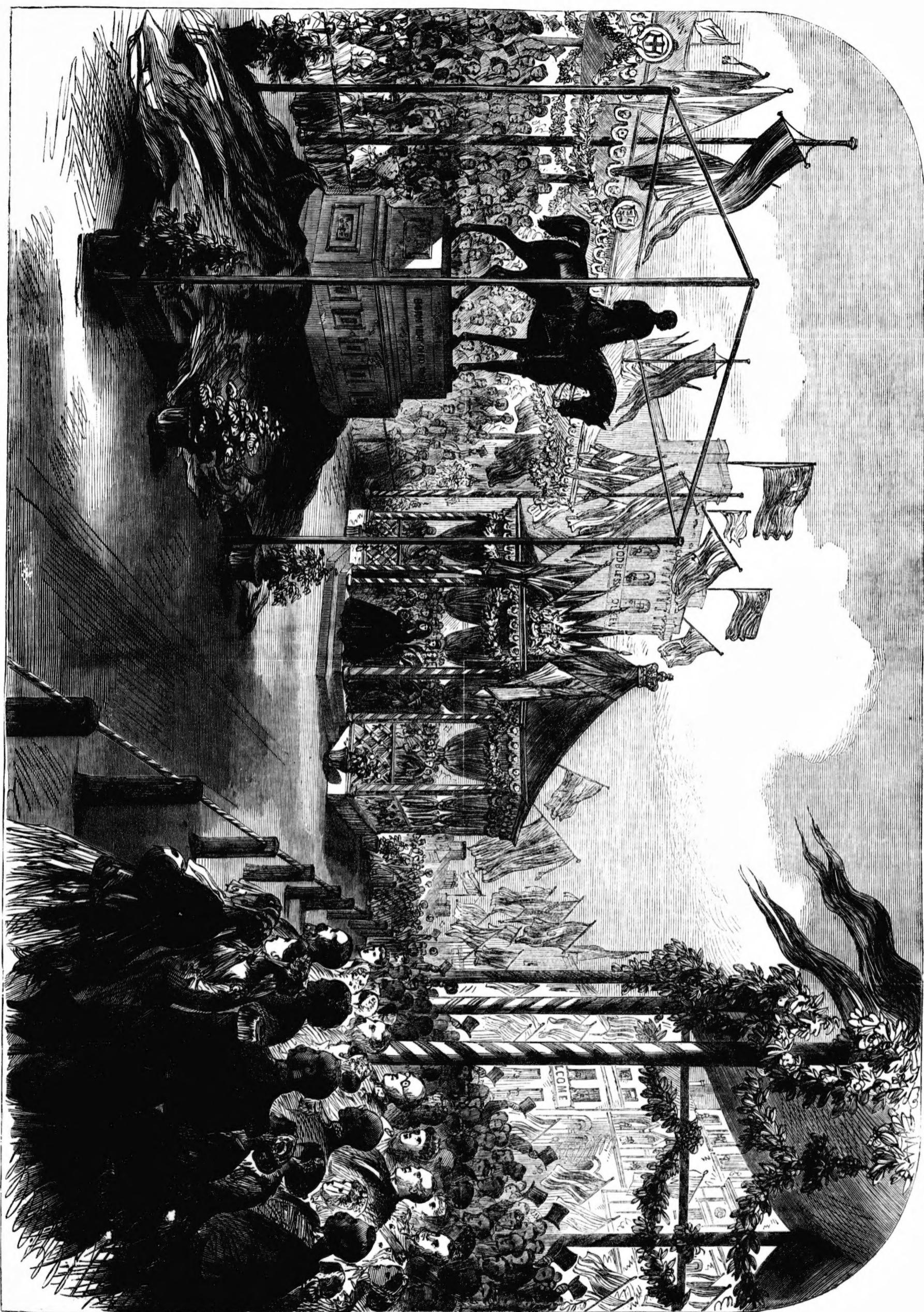
EARLY REMAINS IN SOUTHWARK-STREET.—At the opening meeting of the British Archaeological Association, Mr. Godwin, vice-president, in the chair, after various interesting communications had been made by Lord Boston, the Rev. J. Adams, and others, Mr. Wimble exhibited a large collection of Roman antiquities, with a few relics of earlier British times, procured with the utmost industry, during the month of November, from some diggings in New Southwark-street, between Southwark-square and Winchester-street. He had been assisted in his observations by Mr. Syer Cuming, who gave a particular account of the discovery and was half disposed to view the spot as the site of a “lake dwelling.” This led to a highly-interesting discussion, in which Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A.; Mr. E. Roberts, Mr. Gordon Hills, and others, took part. The space had been examined by sinking about a dozen pits, 6 ft. square, and in every instance except one the pits, when sunk 4 ft. or 5 ft., disclosed oak and beech piles standing in parallel rows. Above them was found the abundance of Roman ware and other works exhibited, and lower down the British remains.



PIGEONS AND POULTRY.—1, Runts; 2, La Flèche; 3, Turbit Pigeon; 4, Nuna; 5, Aylesbury Ducks; 6, Spanish Cock; 7, Carrier Pigeon; 8, Fantails—1st Prizes; 9, Game Cock—3rd Prize; 10, Owl Pigeon; 11, Cochin-China; 12, Turkey; 13, Crèvè Cœur; 15, Mandarin Duck; 20, Pouter Pigeon—1st Prize.

DOGS.—14, Beagle; 15, Clumber; 16, Toy Terrier; 17, Pug; 18, Black-and-Tan King Charles; 21, Mastiff; 22, Blood-hound; 23, Fox-hound; 24, Sheep-dog; 25, Fox Terrier; 26, Greyhound; 27, Dandy Dinmont; 28, Bulldog; 29, Pomeranian; 30, Broken-haired Terrier; 31, Italian Greyhound; 32, Blenheim—1st Prizes.

PRIZE POULTRY AND DOGS AT THE BIRMINGHAM SHOW.



BIRMINGHAM FAT STOCK, POULTRY, AND DOG SHOWS.

The avenues of Bingley Hall were this year shorn of half their glory by the absence of the long lines of cattle which the fear of rinderpest prevents being exhibited. However, the great square hall was not so bare and desolate as might have been expected. Of the five "bays," or broad spaces between the pillars which support the roof, the central one, where Herefords and shorthorns stood or lay upon their tidy straw, closely wrapped in rugs or revealing their points to the eye and touch of critics, was occupied by three long rows of sheep; the two right-hand bays contain four rows of sheep and swine; one of the left-hand bays, in which we used to find the Devons and some other cattle, has been stocked with clucking and crowing poultry; and the remaining left-hand bay is appropriated, as before, to machinery. By slightly expanding the neat iron sheep-pens lengthwise, the whole area of the hall has been well filled, and there are no blank spaces.

SHEEP.

The judges of sheep were Mr. Edward Gough, Mr. Cureton (both Shropshire men), and Mr. Henry Fookes, of Blandford (representing the south country). Leicesters do not improve; among only eight pens of fat wethers, Mr. Foljambe's first and second prize lots were below the mark, with several drooping rumps, slack backs, shallow ribs, and a want of depth in frame and of flesh on the thighs. Mr. Bradshaw's "commended" sheep had better forms, though the faces were a little plain, and the backs had an unfortunately soft feel to the hand. In a good class of five single Leicester ewes, Messrs. James and Edward Findall took the first, and Mr. W. Browne the second, prize. In the longwool wether class, Mr. Wigmore's splendid pen got the first prize, together with an extra 10 gs. given by Mr. Bromley, M.P., for the best Leicester or long-wooled sheep. Messrs. F. and G. West came second with a very good pen. In fact the Cotswolds showed well, though in the ewe class Messrs. West's second-prize fat ewe was beaten out and out by a wonderfully fine Lincoln ewe, of Mr. J. H. Caswell, which wins the first prize. The Southdowns were few in number, but of very great merit. In the young-wether class, Lord Walsingham exhibited two pens—one getting a third prize and the other a "high commendation"—while the second prize went to Lord Sondes and the first prize to the Earl of Radnor.

These first-prize sheep gained the linendrapers' second prize of £10, as the second-best pen of three yearling wethers, in competition with the whole show. In the class of two-year-old Southdowns, Lord Walsingham took the first prize and a "commendation," and the Earl of Radnor is second. There was a good class of Down ewes, Lord Sondes winning first prize and the Duke of Marlborough second. No better display of Shropshire Downs has been seen in Bingley Hall. For the best of five sheep, wethers, Mr. Henry Smith's wonderfully fine specimens of immense weight and beautiful quality won the 20-guinea cup offered by the Mayor of Birmingham for the best five wethers of this breed. Lord Wenlock's "commended" pen comprised exceedingly good animals; but the judges appear to have been more smitten with another pen from the same flock, which they "highly commend." Pens of three Shropshire wethers were magnificent—surprising for the size they have attained; Mr. Nock was first, and gained also the 10-guinea cup offered by Mr. Newdegate, M.P., for the best three wethers of this breed, together with the linendrapers' first prize of £15 for the best three yearling wethers in the hall. Mr. George A. May took the second prize, and Lady Willoughby de Broke the third prize in this class. The 5-guinea cup, given by Messrs. Mapplebeck and Lowe, for the best single Shropshire wether, was won by Mr. Beach, in a particularly good class. For Oxfordshire Downs the Duke of Marlborough and Mr. Stilgoe took first and second prizes; and for crossbreds, in a small class, Mr. John Overman and Mr. Stilgoe were the winners.

PIGS.

The pig judges, Mr. Spearing and Mr. John Moon, found the most inferior show they have seen in this hall for many years. In the young fat pig class Mr. Melville Cartwright took the first prize, and the other prizes were withheld for want of merit. In the class of pigs "not exceeding fifteen months old" the first prize, with the 5-guinea cup for the best pen in the two classes, went to Major-General Hood; and the Windsor pigs also came in for the second prize. The "cream of the show" was in the class of fat pigs "exceeding fifteen months old," consisting of Mr. Stearn's Suffolk blacks, of prime shape and quality, which won the first prize; Earl Radnor got a second prize, and Mr. Duckering a third prize in this class, while Messrs. James and Frederick Howard's great hog was "highly commended." There was a very good show of breeding Berkshires, the first prize and the 5-guinea cup going to a splendid lot of Mr. Joseph Smith; with Mr. Abraham Dixon's second, Mr. John Edwards's third, and a silver medal awarded to Mr. John Mitchell's very pretty pen. The only really fine lot of "five large-breed pigs" was that of Messrs. James and Frederick Howard, which had been "disqualified" by Professor Gamgee on the ground that the state of dentition shows the pigs to be of different literes. The first prize in this class went to Mr. Bantock, the second and third were won by Mr. Wainman, who has not done justice on the present occasion to his ancient fame. Among the "five pigs of a small breed," the first prize and 5-guinea cup were taken by Mr. Stearn for extremely good specimens, and General Hood and Mr. Mangels come second and third with very creditable well-fed pens.

POULTRY.

The description of this portion of the show we copy entire from the report published in the *Times*:—"The main attraction of Bingley Hall has yet to be noticed; and this presents us with considerable novelty of arrangement. A bold stroke of Messrs. Adkins, Wright, Mapplebeck, and their brother stewards, has set a completely new fashion in the showing of fowls; they have summarily put every 'cock and two hens' through the divorce court, and no such thing as the old pen of three birds is now visible—the males, no longer permitted to be bigamists, all appear as solitary widowers or celibates, while the matron hens and blooming maiden-partlets solace one another in broken-hearted pairs. That the novel regulation is not unpleasing to fanciers is proved by their sending several hundred more entries than before; though the total number of birds is probably less. The effect upon the funds of the exhibition is good; and no doubt the sales will be favourably influenced, seeing that breeders will not be able to buy single birds of any sort to match with blood of a different strain. A step forward, too, has been taken in the all-important matter of selecting judges—always a heavy responsibility upon the shoulders of the managers, when so much depends upon taste as well as rule, and a decision is often a ticklish matter, giving rise to an infinity of small discontent and personal criticism. John Baily's name is known all the world over as that of an expert in poultry craft, whose zeal was mainly instrumental in winning for the Birmingham Show its early fame. Other names in the list of umpires command universal respect; and, by a wise choice of the committee, we are now enabled to welcome into office Mr. Richard Teebay, whose searching technical knowledge was needed to balance the more old-fashioned predilections of some who, year after year, have gone through the routine of the Bingley Hall awards. Time also has been thought of on this occasion; and, with a division of the arduous labour between seven in place of only five gentlemen, there will be less of racing against the clock and not so much likelihood of a leisurely review next day making a judge, in some cases, 'wish that he hadn't.'

Another much-needed improvement has been effected in the lodging of the birds, by emancipating them from confinement in clumsy, dark-shadowed, deep recesses of cells, which concealed many specimens from view, and made quite a farce of 'showing' ducks. The council having offered a £10 prize for a design, Mr. Lythall, the secretary, succeeded in winning it against a dozen competitors; and the result is the accommodation of the birds in light, airy cages, giving each one a chance of displaying its beauty. The pens, constructed of wood framing, board, and upright galvanised iron wires, are made in twos or threes, the front and top hinged, and the partitions opening out like the legs of a table, so as to fold flat or be set

up almost instantaneously. They are arranged in two tiers, both upper and lower pens placed at exactly the right heights for the eyes of most visitors, and there is a comfortable width for the public in the avenues between.

The expression of the judges themselves is that this is the grandest show that has ever been seen. Among the Dorkings, Mrs. Arkwright is at the top of the tree, with male birds, leaving Admiral Hornby quite in the shade; indeed, if it were not for his first-prize pair of hens, this victor of a thousand fights would be left almost nowhere. And on carefully inspecting the birds, we fully agree with the fate accorded to him by the judges. Viscountess Holmesdale does not show at all; nor does Captain Heaton appear with his renowned Cochins, leaving the field to be won by Mr. Yardley, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Causer, Mr. Howard Mapplebeck, Mr. Fell, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Stretch, and Mr. Tudman. There is a fine show of Brahma; Mr. J. C. Cooper wins with Malays, Mr. Lowe and Mr. Beldon with Spanish; Mr. George C. Adkins made a clean sweep with his Silver Polands; and Messrs. Williams, Sales, Sir St. George Gore, &c., are great with game fowl; the two 'extra prizes' for game going to Mr. Burgess and to Mr. Wood, the pullets of the latter exhibitor being a wonderfully fine pair. Mrs. Seamons is again the *Venus victrix* of Aylesbury ducks, her first prize, drake and one duck, weighing 18 lb.; the second prize, drake and duck, 16½ lb. The Rouens have at last beaten the white birds, Mr. Shaw's first-prize pair weighing 19 lb., and Sir St. George Gore's second-prize pair, 18½ lb. Mrs. Seamon's white gander and goose, weighing 57½ lb., are surpassed in the scales (or, in strict fact, on the steelyards) by Mrs. Arbuthnott's greys, weighing 59½ lb. Mrs. Seamon's eight-months-old white gander and goose weigh 42½ lb.; Mrs. Arbuthnott's six-months-old grey gander and goose weigh 42½ lb. Mr. John Smith is again the champion with turkeys, one cock and hen weighing 49½ lb., and a six-months-and-a-half-old pair weighing 39½ lb."

PIGEONS.

"We naturally find the pigeons in a loft, and here they occupy about forty cages more than usual in their favourite gallery. Of course, the settlement of comparative merits is in the very best of hands. Mr. Cottle has no superior in the abstruse and delicate learning which treats of myriad points and markings, and Harrison Weir has the same unrivalled eye and pencil for a homing or tumbling 'dow' as for a wild bird whirring from a brake. There is a very close competition in every class; the most extraordinary merit being observable among the pouters, runts, white fantails, other fantails, owls, barbs, and dragoons. Mr. John Baily's runts weigh within a shade of 5 lb. the pair; and conspicuous for rare merit are Mr. Wicking's white fantails, and a complete novelty appears in the shape of some wholly 'black Jacobins' in the class for new varieties."

DOGS.

The seventh annual display of canine merit in Birmingham was bigger, better, richer, and more promising than ever. No matter that the managers had sought to limit the show by admitting only three instead of four dogs for a guinea subscription and by raising the 4s. entrance-fee to 5s., the entries came in sixty stronger than last year, and numbered 830. The Curzon Hall was so inconveniently full that a yard at the back had been converted into a menagerie of mastiffs, Newfoundlands and St. Bernards relieving the galleries, we suppose, of the weight and power of the show, on the same principle which in an implement exhibition always places steam-engines and heavy work down stairs, and at the same time enabling each dog in the hall to stretch himself over a few inches more space than was enjoyed before. A main attraction this year was provided in the new "fittings," while the new "star" gaslights decidedly added to the prettiness of the whole spectacle. The show, on the whole, was of a really very superior description, and attracted an unusual degree of interest and attention.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO WOLVERHAMPTON.

THERE probably never was collected a larger crowd in any one spot in the United Kingdom—perhaps excepting the metropolis itself—than that which poured into Wolverhampton on Friday morning week from every town, village, and hamlet in the midland and northern counties. The railway accommodation afforded by the two principal lines was taxed to the utmost; but in addition every road was covered long before daylight with vehicles and toiling pedestrians, all hurrying to see their Queen perform a solemn act of devotion to the memory of her late illustrious consort.

The great centre of attraction was of course the "High-green," or market-place, in the centre of which stood, closely veiled, the statue on its lofty pedestal of Dartmoor granite. The statue, which is of bronze, is hardly up to the heroic size; but is very spirited and lifelike, according to the modern canons of sculpture. The height from the bottom of the pedestal to the top of the head is 16 ft., but does not look so much, probably in consequence of the market place being surrounded by very lofty houses. The Prince is represented in his Field Marshal's uniform, and, with one hand stretched forward, he seems graciously to acknowledge the vivas of the crowd. The horse, which is modelled from the life, is a portrait of his Royal Highness's favourite charger. The whole is a most meritorious work of art, and Mr. Thornycroft, the artist, has the honour and pleasure of knowing that it meets with the full approval of her Majesty. During the morning the whole—rider, horse, and pedestal—was closely veiled in by a drapery of the national flags, and no one was permitted to examine it until it had been formally unveiled in the Queen's presence. Immediately facing the statue was a Royal pavilion of handsome design, covered, and draped in crimson cloth, and surmounted by the Royal crown. Pillars in crimson and white supported the sides and corner, and the white rose of Lancaster profusely studded the curtain and draperies. A throne and two chairs of state stood within, and a few steps covered with crimson led up to the pavilion from the entrance. All round the statue the open area of the market-place was occupied by an extensive amphitheatre, with ascending seats, all draped and decorated in harmony with the Royal pavilion. In the front seats were representatives of the nobility, gentry, and clergy of Staffordshire and other neighbouring counties; and the upper seats accommodated the more influential inhabitants of the town and the personal friends of the Town Council. A guard of honour of the 39th Regiment was stationed close to the Royal pavilion.

Her Majesty and suite, including the Earl of Derby and Lord Alfred Paget, arrived by special train at the Great Western station at ten minutes past one o'clock, where she was received by the Earl of Lichfield (Lord Lieutenant of the county), and the Mayor and Corporation of Wolverhampton. The Mayoretta presented a splendid bouquet, which was most graciously received by her Majesty, and a handsome bracelet to Princess Christian, which was also most graciously received. It took some time to form the procession, which, however, was exceedingly effective and imposing. In front were the Staffordshire Yeomanry Cavalry, a splendid body of men and horses, and looking exceedingly like the mounted Landwehr of Prussia; then the Corporation carriage, followed by the Royal one, in the last of which, an open landau drawn by four horses, sat the Queen, Princesses Christian and Louisa, and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. An escort of the 8th Hussars closed the procession, which proceeded slowly through the principal streets of the town. It would be mere repetition to mention again the density of the crowd or the enthusiasm of the reception. Her Majesty was highly pleased, and bowed her acknowledgments very frequently as she passed along. The best order was preserved, the people remaining at the places which they had originally taken up, whilst the entire roadway was kept clear by the local volunteers, who lined it on each side.

The approach of the Royal procession to the market-square was indicated to the pavilion company by the gradually rising hum of the immense crowd and the cheers which filled the air, both growing louder and louder every moment, until at last the bright helmets of the yeomanry flashed across the market-place, and the carriages of the Corporation drew up at the entrances. The common council-

men occupied the two front rows of the amphitheatre on one side, and on the other the Right Rev. Diocesan and his clergy, accompanied by some of the Aldermen, took up a position close to the entrance of the pavilion. About this time the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Harrowby, and Sir Robert Peel took their seats, and immediately after the Royal carriage drew up, the band pealed forth the National Anthem, and her Majesty the Queen, Princesses Christian and Louisa, and Prince Christian alighted at the state entrance. By this time the ladies of honour, the Prime Minister (the Earl of Derby), the borough member; the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, &c., had formed a semicircle round the throne, advancing from which her Majesty, accompanied by the two Princesses and Prince Christian, presented themselves at the front of the pavilion. The cheers now became deafening; her Majesty bowed gracefully again and again, and gazed earnestly at the still-veiled statue. There was real and deep emotion evident in every feature of the Queen, which her surrounding subjects were quick to perceive; they gave cheers of sympathy, the meaning of which could not be mistaken. It was a remarkable scene, almost painful in its interest; so much so, that a feeling of relief was experienced when the various deputations advanced to the dais and the officials commenced their portions of the ceremonial. The Bishop of Lichfield read an appropriate prayer, and the Recorder of the borough (Mr. J. I. Powell) delivered an address.

Her Majesty listened apparently with pleased attention, and at the conclusion of the address whispered something to the Earl of Derby, who in his turn whispered to the Mayor, and that functionary coming forward and kneeling, Lord Alfred Paget handed her Majesty his sword, and the Mayor rose to his feet Sir John Morris. The compliment was accepted with delight by this worthy gentleman's fellow-townsmen. Mr. Thornycroft then unveiled the statue, whilst the band of the 39th played the "Coburg March," and the assembled people cheered enthusiastically. Her Majesty stood gazing for a few minutes steadfastly and earnestly at the statue, her eyes becoming filled with tears; but soon she seemed as if by a strong effort to recover her self-possession, and conversed calmly with Lord Derby.

After a few minutes' pause, during which the cheering of the assembled people was more than once renewed, her Majesty descended from the pavilion, and walked slowly round the statue, minutely inspecting it as she passed along. Mr. Thornycroft was graciously spoken to, and his work commended, after which her Majesty returned to the pavilion, where she remained in conversation with the Earl of Derby, Mr. Villiers, and one or two other persons of distinction, whilst the members of the Corporation were taking their places for the return procession.

The return, although passing through a new series of streets, was only a repetition of the earlier progress to the market-place. The volunteers still lined the way, the people crowded at the barriers, and from every window and house-top handkerchiefs were waved and loyal cheers were repeated.

Her Majesty arrived at the station at a quarter past three, where a suite of ten rooms had been appropriated to the accommodation of herself and attendants, and in which luncheon was partaken of. Immediately after luncheon the Royal party resumed their places in the train, and departed amid the most marked demonstrations of loyal regard from the thousands of persons who had been admitted to the spacious platform.

After her Majesty's departure the Mayor entertained a large party in the Agricultural Hall. In the evening the town was brilliantly illuminated.

BISHOPS ON RITUALISM.

BISHOP OF LONDON.

The Bishop of London's quadrennial charge to his clergy has been printed and circulated in consequence of the inability, from ill-health, of the Right Rev. Prelate to deliver it in person. As might be expected, the present aspect of ritualism is very copiously dealt with. His Lordship says that "matters cannot remain much longer as they are," and points to legislation as the best means of settling the questions at issue. "It is competent to the Church (says the Bishop) to alter its ritual or to explain anything in its rules of worship which is ambiguous;" and in matters concerning the detail of our services, but which do not touch doctrine, he sees no difficulty in legislation so as to define more precisely those two clauses in the Act of Uniformity respecting the discretionary powers of Bishops "to take order for the settlement of doubts, and respecting the ornaments of the Church and the ministers thereof," the ambiguity of which has led to so much difficulty and confusion in the late ritualistic dissensions." And his Lordship adds, "My own opinion is clear that, though legislation could not settle all difficulties, yet without an authoritative explanation of these clauses, passed by Parliament and accepted by Convocation, we shall always be liable to misunderstandings dangerous to the Church's peace." The Bishop, of course, treats upon a great variety of other subjects—such as (1) the final judgment of the Privy Council upon "Essays and Reviews," and its effects as regards the doctrines of "Inspiration," "Imputed Righteousness," and "Eternal Punishment;" (2) the yearning of hearts in the Church more than formerly for union with other Christian bodies; (3) the necessity of earnestness on the part of the clergy in their work amongst the poor, and in guiding and fortifying the rising generation of the middle classes against the peculiar and subtle temptations and infidelity which now abound; (4) the work accomplished during the last three years by his Lordship's "fund for building churches, schools," &c.; (5) the value of Sunday-school instruction and proper organisation and training of the teachers; and, finally, "the Sisters of Mercy in the Church of England," whose labours he greatly praises, and whose greater usefulness will be manifest when they drop the peculiarities to which many of "these excellent women now adhere somewhat tenaciously."

BISHOP OF OXFORD.

The triennial charge of the Bishop of Oxford was delivered, on Monday, at Oxford to a large assembly of his clergy. It occupied fully three hours in delivery, of which the first hour was devoted to the internal affairs of his Lordship's diocese, which appears to be in a highly flourishing condition; and the remainder to the consideration of Ritualism and other Church questions. His Lordship spoke in condemnatory terms of the conduct of the extreme Ritualists, but desired that weekly communion should be the rule; and recommended his clergy in all cases, when they desired to make any alterations in the service at their churches, to confer with their Bishop on the subject. Such a course would be based upon ancient usage, as in former times each bishop settled the liturgy for his own diocese.

PROFESSOR MAURICE.—The inaugural lecture of the Rev. Professor Frederick Denison Maurice, the recently-elected Professor of Moral Theology and Casuistry, was delivered, on Tuesday, in the Senate House, at Cambridge, which was literally crammed. On the floor, the whole of the resident University men were represented by the Vice-Chancellor, professors, heads of houses, and all who, as members of the Senate, exercised their privilege on this occasion. The galleries were crowded by undergraduates; and the highest compliment paid to the Professor was paid by the absence of noise or interruption by the *Oi Pollio*. On his appearance the Professor was greeted with rounds of cheers from the galleries; and, at the conclusion of his address, was most courteously congratulated by the dignitaries on the floor.

DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.—A meeting of the Department of Economy and Trade of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science was held at their rooms in the Adelphi, the other evening, at which was read, by Mr. Horsee Davy, a paper "On the Legislative Measures necessary for the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes." The paper urged the provisions of a bill drawn by him last Session, at the request of a special committee of the department, but which was not, owing to technical difficulties, introduced into the House. The bill incorporated certain provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts of 1845 and 1850, and empowered municipal corporations or public companies to apply by memorial to the Secretary of State for a certificate for the compulsory purchase of premises. The Secretary of State may direct inquiries, and grant the certificate if he is satisfied of the following matters:—1. That the premises described in the memorial are unfit for human habitation, or pestilential and a nuisance to the neighbourhood. 2. That dwellings proper and suitable for artisans and labourers are needed in that locality. 3. That the applicants are in a position and have the means to execute the works referred to, with such additions, or alterations, or modifications, as the Secretary of State shall direct. 4. That it is fit and proper that the applicants should have power for the compulsory purchase of the premises. The Secretary of State may direct alterations in the plans, and direct other persons to execute the works at the expense of the applicants if not commenced within three months after obtaining possession, and municipal corporations are empowered to raise money by a charge upon the general district rate. A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Beggs, Mr. Dresser Rogers, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Henry Robinson, Mr. W. H. Smith, Dr. Pankhurst, the Rev. Brooke Lambert, the Rev. W. L. Clay, Dr. Liddle, Mr. Rendle; the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P.; Mr. Gael, and the chairman, took part; after which it was resolved that the paper be printed and circulated.

Literature.

EDITIONS DE LUXE.

Two Centuries of Song; or, Lyrics, Madrigals, Sonnets, and other occasional Verses of the English Poets for the last Two Hundred Years. With Critical and Biographical Notes, by WALTER THORNBURY, Author of "Haunted London," &c. Illustrated by original Pictures of eminent Artists; with Coloured Borders, designed by Henry Shaw, F.S.A., &c. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

It may well be doubted whether books made up of selections, elegant extracts, beauties of the poets, &c., ever are or can be otherwise than unsatisfactory. So much depends on the judgment of the selector, and tastes so vary, that we do not believe any editor can quite succeed in acquitting himself of a task, always invidious and difficult, without provoking criticism, and, it may be, condemnation. We fear Mr. Thornebury will not, in reference to the volume before us, escape this common fate of editors. For ourselves, we frankly confess that the book, though an exceedingly handsome book, is very disappointing. We are not satisfied with the selection. It not unfrequently happens that the pieces given are to our mind at least—not by any means the best, or even average, specimens of their respective authors. This may be owing, as the preface insinuates, to the necessity of adhering to the plan of the work; but if so, the conclusion is forced upon us that the plan was of dubious value, and might have been a little deviated from with advantage. Then there are other respects in which the volume disappoints us. Judging by the outside, we are naturally led to expect something very superior indeed inside, for the binding is really superb. But, on opening the book, our expectations are far from being realised. First, we don't like that rusty brown colour in which the borders are printed. To our eye, it is vulgar and coarse. Next, the head-pieces are rarely, if ever, appropriate either to the poems to which they are prefixed or to the borders by which they are surrounded. Then we fail occasionally to discover the points in which the text is illustrated by the engraving annexed to it. For instance, what connection is there between the picture facing page 192 and the poem on that page? "An Indian Landscape: Wild Peacocks," is supposed to be illustrative of Moore's "There's a Bower of Roses by Bendemeer's Stream." The only possible reason for introducing this engraving (unless, indeed, it was a stock block which it was desirable to utilise) in connection with this poem, that we can discover, is that "Bendemeer's Stream" is supposed to have been in India, and that these "Wild Peacocks" figure in an "Indian Landscape." Fluellen's reasoning as to the connection of Monmouth and Macedon, the Wye, the "other river," and the "saumons," is quite as conclusive. Moore's poem is a very pretty poem, and Mr. J. Wolf's picture is a very pretty picture; but they don't illustrate each other. Palms and peacocks may be finer pictorially, but they are poor substitutes, poetically, for roses and nightingales. In looking over the engravings we see much to admire—as, for example, in "The First Primroses," "The Little Gossip," "Colin and Phoebe," "Home, Sweet Home," and many others. We are averse to find more faults, but why should the horse in the "Whipper-in" have been endowed with such a monstrously big head? The high-bred hunter's caput is large enough for a brewer's dray-horse. Why do artists continue to sin in this respect? Let them read Shakspere's description of a horse, in "Venus and Adonis," and take a lesson from one who understood the "points" of a horse thoroughly, as he did most things. In respect of printing—an important matter in a book of this sort—the present volume is very nearly all that could be wished. The engravings are generally well "brought up," though a little more attention might have been paid to perspective effects. The type is clear; the colour full, yet not clogged; and uniformity is well kept throughout. On the whole, Mr. Clay has done his work well; but what a strange muddle that is he has made between pages 113 and 128! The binding, as we have said, is almost perfection in point of elegance and substantiality.

Touches of Nature. By Eminent Artists and Authors. London: Alexander Strahan.

This is a magnificent imperial quarto volume, specially designed for the drawing-room table, and got up with considerable taste, though the execution does not seem to have been in all respects equal to the conception. The book is bound in violet morocco boards, beautifully embossed and ornamented with gold lines and flowers. Each of the engravings—and there is one on every alternate page—is surrounded by a border printed in gold, the design being varied in each instance. The paper is thick, and the letterpress clearly and distinctly printed. The book, we are told in the publisher's dedication to Dr. Norman Macleod, has had gathered into it "much of the richest fruit of Strahan's magazines." This, of course, applies to both the literary and pictorial contents; and very rich indeed is the fruit Strahan's magazines yield. The list of contributors includes the names of nearly all the most eminent artistic and literary workers of the day, male and female. From among the productions of such a phalanx of authors and artists a first-rate work was to be expected; and a first-rate work we have. Not that the volume is altogether perfect; for we see several faults, some of which might easily have been avoided. We do not mean to criticise in detail either pictures or letterpress. That is unnecessary with productions all of which have been some time before the public. Suffice it to say that in both departments there are things to meet the tastes of every class of reader and picture-hunter. It is more with the manner than the matter of the book that we are here concerned—with the arrangement, the printing, and the general effect of the book as a whole. On the whole, then, we say that the effect is highly satisfactory, with one or two exceptions. In the first place, would it not have been a more natural arrangement to have made the engravings and the letterpress they respectively illustrate *face each other*, instead of having the former following *at the back* of the latter, as is invariably the case? Then, might not some little pains have been taken to repair the damages sustained by the wood-blocks in the course of their magazine career, and in preventing the joinings from showing so palpably as they do in many instances? Indeed, the blocks seem to have received very rough usage somewhere, the marks of which are visible in numerous specks and blemishes. A little touching up, re-screwing of joints, "underlaying" of blocks, and so forth, would have rectified these defects, which, in a book like this, are serious flaws. We know that to do this is difficult, and requires care and trouble; but we know also that it could have been done, and surely the pains would not have been ill bestowed. The engravers and printers (Messrs. Dalziel), who have exhibited so much taste and skill in other respects, should have taken care to see to the faults we have named for their own credit's sake. And yet, notwithstanding all deficiencies that can be seen or fancied, the book is a magnificent book, and, considering the moderate price (one guinea) at which it is issued, will doubtless find its way to many a drawing-room and boudoir table.

Roses and Holly. A Gift-Book for All the Year. With original Illustrations by Gourlay Steel, R.S.A.; R. Herdman, R.S.A.; Clark Stanton, A.R.S.A.; Samuel Bough, A.R.S.A.; John Macwhirter, John Lawson, and other eminent Artists. Engraved by R. Paterson. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

The title of this book is symbolic. "The rose—the queen of flowers—is significant of summer, of beauty, and of love: the holly—the evergreen of happiness—which cheers the heart through the gloom of winter, and shadows round the Christmas hearth pleasant memories and feelings of friendship, of comfort, and of gaiety." So the preface, in which we are further informed that it was thought "a miscellaneous collection of art and literary gems, grouped together in most admired disorder, would form a volume of interest and value." And rightly did the editor so think. His is really a collection of art and literary gems—the prettiest book, take it all in all, that we have seen this season. The illustrations have all been specially drawn and engraved for the volume, and among them

are original examples of several of the most distinguished living Scottish artists. This is a point worthy of note, because the entire artistic and mechanical work of "Roses and Holly" has been executed in the northern capital, to the enterprise, taste, and skill of which it is an honour. The literature is a selection from the writings of the most distinguished authors—English, Irish, and Scotch, supplemented by a few American—who have enriched English literature from the days of Shakespeare and Spenser to the present time. The selections are good, and the variety permitted by the plan—or rather no plan—of the book is indeed charming. We are very much pleased to see such a book issued from the Scottish capital, and from the printing-house of the Ballantynes; and shall hail with gladness welcome the future contributions to the *editions de luxe* of Christmas-time or all the year which we hope the success of "Roses and Holly" will encourage Mr. Nimmo to furnish. A word or two in the way, not of censure, but of question, ere we conclude. Would it not have been better taste to omit the vindication of publishers copied from Thackeray on page 13? and has not Mr. George Hay made Maggie Mucklebacket, in the engraving on page 76, a deal too young? The figure which confronts the Antiquary is not that of a middle-aged woman, with a face that had defied a thousand storms." This female is not more, apparently, than twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, and is altogether too "natty" and prim in costume and otherwise, for the virago of the Musselcraig, as painted by Sir Walter.

NEW HOLIDAY BOOKS.

Sir Julian's Wife. By EMMA JANE WORBOISE, Author of "St. Beetha's," &c. London: Virtue Brothers.

Tom and the Crocodiles. By ANN BOWMAN, Author of "The Boy Pilgrims," &c. With Illustrations. London: George Routledge and Sons.

Johnny Jordan and his Dog. By MRS. ELOART, Author of "Ernie Elton; or, the Lazy Boy," &c. With Illustrations. London: George Routledge and Sons.

Rosa Lindsay, the Light of Kilmain. By M. H., Author of "Labourers in the Vineyard," &c. Edinburgh: Johnstone, Hunter, and Co.

Newlyn House: the Home of the Davenports. By A. E. W. Edinburgh: Johnstone, Hunter, and Co.

Cassell's Shilling Story Books for the Young.—My First Cruise, &c. (1 vol.) The Elchester College Boys. (1 vol.) London and New York: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

Beside good points of its own, Miss Worboise's latest story for young people, "Sir Julian's Wife," is a happy example of improvement by progression. So marked is the difference of style between the first chapter and the last that the authorship might be doubted, where it not, of course, for other matters which put doubt beyond question. Ages ago, the style of Dr. Johnson's imitators was happily ridiculed in this fashion: "All ye who eagerly listen with ignorant credulity to the insane whispers of fond Fancy, and hastily pursue with inconsiderate eagerness the vain and delusive phantoms of dear Hope," &c.; but Miss Worboise has missed the hint to writers. This is her style of beginning: "Where the gorgeous woods were arrayed in their royal autumn robes, and where the rushing streams swept on their way through wild ravines, along green quiet vales, and round the base of many an old grey, weather-beaten rock and dark-scarred cliff rearing its stately head to the blue crystalline heaven of the beauteous northern land," &c. But, happily, this redundant style gets pruned down as the story advances, and ultimately becomes very fair English. Otherwise the consequences might be dreadful. As it is, it is possible that little Kasper and Wilhelmine, rushing on the story as soon as holidays begin, may by Christmas-time be quite unable to make themselves understood by ordinary parents when simply desiring a seventeenth supply of plum-pudding. The story of "Sir Julian's Wife" is interesting, and some of the characters remarkably good. The hero himself is not to our taste. He is always weak and flippant, and does not seem to be clever enough to make bad puns, and which would, at all events, be quite as pleasant as his usual style of talk. The elderly and aristocratic aunt is excellent; the tolerant non-conformist parson and his wife no less so. Ethel, who is plucked from ignorance and poverty, and strangely, but humanly, planted amongst education and affluence, has a well-drawn love-story, which belongs not to us here; and the other story of love and sorrow, in which Gratia Venour is the conspicuous character, has interest of a somewhat deeper kind. "Sir Julian's Wife" is likely to make Miss Worboise a still greater favourite with juvenile readers.

Boys exclusively claim attention in "Tom and the Crocodiles" and "Johnny Jordan and His Dog." Miss Bowman has had experience in this kind of literature, and has judiciously flung endless adventure and danger into "Tom and the Crocodiles." There is little actual story told, and something like that little might easily be guessed. For all kinds of reasons, Mr. Alfred Selwyn takes himself and his family to reside in a small island of his own in the West Indies. There would be no room for sport here; but, luckily, the blacks revolt, and the Selwyn family escape in an open boat, and ultimately make—we are not certain—the mainland, the Valley of the Amazon. Here the interest becomes terrific. They pick up a ship's carpenter who has been wrecked—a useful and kind fellow, who has escaped from his wicked comrades, who have taken up with piracy and slavedealing. As these two batches of people, together with red Indians of all kinds, are constantly meeting, there is no lack of moving accident by flood and field, and panthers and crocodiles are prominent characters when the others are not on the stage. Mr. Selwyn gives the natural history of every plant, bird, or animal encountered. He has it on his tongue's tip—which, by the way, is the exact spot where Mrs. Selwyn keeps her unlimited stock of piety and morals. When we say that, even amidst all the dangers of forest and savage life, she thinks it wrong to fire at a man who has just fired at you, the tone of this good lady's sermons—one at least to every page!—will be readily understood. Strangely enough, the revolt of the blacks in Selwyn Island, and the commentary thereon, seems to read like an argument in favour of Mr. Eyre's policy in Jamaica. We doubt if Miss Bowman intended this.

"Johnny Jordan and his Dog" is of a different stamp, and must only be offered to decidedly small boys. It is full of fun and animal spirits, and is entirely confined to the tricks of schoolboys, both in and out of holiday time, on the bad and mean people of the surrounding neighbourhood. Those who remember having been young themselves will smile at the amusing reminiscences of early life; and they will approve the fine spirit of the lads who do very much good amongst their amusing pranks, tease only those who deserve to be teased, and generally manage to play hard in holiday hours and work hard in school hours. Upon the whole, the honourable youngsters make themselves liked by the reader, and they scarcely need the one bad boy as a foil. Mrs. Eloart has a good idea of the humours of a bovish frolic; but, before leaving her pages, we must remind her that she changes the names of the characters in at least two cases, that there can be no such thing as a cavalcade without a horse, and that a place twenty miles from London on the River Lea must be more than five miles from any part of Berkshire. And her young readers should be careful not to imitate her young heroes by using such vulgarisms as "How ever did you do so-and-so?"

The authors who supply stories for Messrs. Johnstone and Hunter are in anything but a jolly good humour just now. They seem to think that, although Christmas only comes once a year, it need not come in a lively fashion then. However, it must be tedious to be for ever hunting crocodiles and playing pranks on ill-conditioned farmers; and such well-written stories as "Rosa Lindsay, the Light of Kilmain," and "Newlyn House: the Home of the Davenports," will surely find readers. They combine the morality of Hannah More with the severity of Mrs. Brunton. "Rosa Lindsay" is designed to show how everybody has some particular talent, and how everybody is bound to "trade it" for the glory of Heaven. But Rosa is not too exalted for a good marriage, and the description of the village worship and rejoicing reads like a

passage from the "Lives of the Saints." "Newlyn House" is far more of the earth, earthy; and two or three young people of the most respectable kind are so desperately wicked as to give quite an air of reality to the scene. But both stories are calculated to make the best possible people very much better still.

Two volumes of "Cassell's Shilling Story-Books for the Young" are before us. They are plainly printed, nicely bound, are well written, and may be pronounced at once cheap and good. In one volume there are an excellent sketch, by Mr. W. H. G. Kingston, called "My First Cruise," and, besides two other stories, the "Legend of Bellerophon and Pegasus," told in Nathaniel Hawthorne's fascinating language, under the name of "The Chimera." The other volume contains a tale by Mrs. Henry Word, called "The Elchester College Boys," together with some harmless playfulness by Fanny Fern, &c. A better shilling's worth it would be difficult to find.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Nimmo's Juvenile Tales. Edinburgh: W. P. Nimmo.

What a blessing have the old stock nursery stories been to several generations of children—and publishers! It would be interesting to know a few statistics regarding these same nursery tales. As, for instance, how many editions have been issued, and how many copies were printed and sold of each; how many different publishers have had a pull at these stories, and what amount of profit has been made out of them; how many different artists have illustrated them, and how much has been paid for the work. First and last, a good deal of money must have been turned over, and a good deal of comfortable pot-boiling secured, in connection with the stock nursery tales. And that a very large measure of gratification must have been afforded to the little ones, is proved by the fact that the old stories are still in favour, often as they have been served up, and varied as has been the style in which they have been produced. Not a Christmas comes but brings with it a new edition, or editions, of such stories as "The Children in the Wood," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Cinderella," "The White Cat," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Jack the Giant-Killer," &c. And here we have them all reproduced once more in Mr. W. P. Nimmo's series of "Juvenile Tales," with fresh coloured illustrations, newly-designed wrapper, and all the usual accessories—but varied once more—which have time out of mind made these tales ever welcome, ever new, in the nursery. Of the many editions of these old favourites which have passed through our hands, this by Mr. Nimmo is not the least carefully got up and attractive.

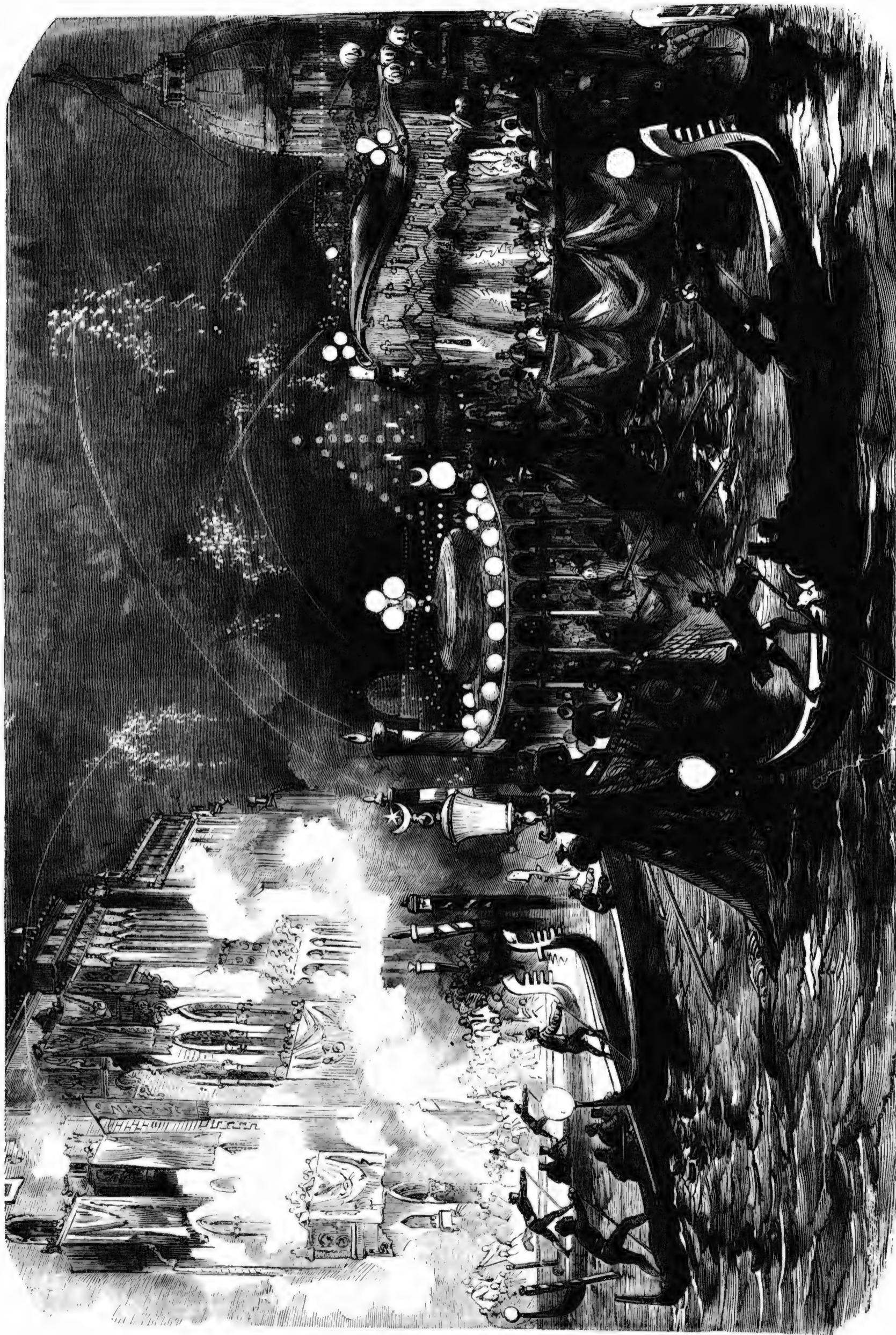
With this series, though not exactly of it, we may class Mr. Nimmo's new edition of Cowper's immortal account of John Gilpin's Ride to Ware. The cockney draper's adventures are here depicted in some very well-executed illustrations by Mr. C. A. Doyle, who has caught the humour of the piece very happily. We would respectfully suggest to Mr. Doyle, however, that, unaccustomed as the gallant Gilpin was to equestrianism, he would hardly, while on the *near* (or left) side of the horse, have proceeded to mount by putting his *right* foot first into the stirrup, and so have to get upon the horse's back by passing his left leg over its head, and consequently sitting with his face to the tail, as he is represented in the act of doing on page 7. Such a performance might be tolerated on the part of Mr. Merryman in the arena of a circus, but is unworthy of an artist who undertakes to illustrate, even humorously, Cowper's famous poem. With this exception, we have much pleasure in commanding Mr. Doyle's illustrations, as well as the printing and general get-up of the book, which are of really superior character.

OVEREND, GURNEY, AND CO.'S ESTATES.—Some little curiosity has been evinced by capitalists and others with reference to the Surrey estates lately sold by the liquidators, and we have gathered what we believe to be the actual facts, showing very high prices and large profits on the original outlay. The Nutfield property fetched nearly £150,000. The mansion and park, with Little Cormorgans, about 162 acres, was bought by Mr. James Watney, of Haling Park, for £40,500, with the timber at a valuation. The Holmesdale property, about fifty acres, with the houses and stabling, fetched £19,500, the timber to be at a valuation. Court Lodge, nine acres and a house, fetched £5500; two farms fetched £12,600; Court Lodge Farm and Fuller's Earthworks, and others, in all 148 acres, sold for £15,000. The whole of these lots were bought by Mr. Pattison, the actuary to the Commercial Union Fire and Life Insurance Company. The cottage property sold well to local purchasers. The model farm fetched upwards of £20,000, and was bought by Mr. Edwards.

THE HARMONIUM.—A new form, or rather adaptation, of the harmonium, ingeniously fitting it more particularly than hitherto for a convenient drawing-room ornament, as well as specially for use on board ship and for conveyance to foreign countries, has just been patented in this country, through Messrs. Metzler and Co., their agents, by Messrs. Alexandre, the great French manufacturers. The Duke of Edinburgh directly purchased one of the new instruments—the cabinet harmonium—for his ship. The principal differences of the new from the well-known general form of the harmonium are the following:—The key-board is made to fold in, and the whole construction occupies only half the ordinary bulk; the bellows are made on an improved plan, so that their necessary action, rendered infinitely easier, does not tend in any way to distract the player. A difficulty is thus removed for ladies. These essential advantages are obtained, with an accession of quality and power in the tone, which makes the adaptation of form an unpaired gain.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—The value of merchandise imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during the past three quarters of this year amounted to more than £12,000,000 sterling, or about 42,000,000 in excess of last year. This is, of course, chiefly due to the enormous increase of our trade with America, the United States contributing to the above sum a quota of more than £1,000,000. An increase of imports is also observable as to Spain and Italy, and of our British possessions, Australia and India afford additions of 1,000,000 and 5,000,000 respectively. On the other hand, the value of merchandise imported from Mexico has fallen to one fourth of the amount reached in 1865; and a falling off, though in a less degree, has taken place as regards Sweden, Denmark, Egypt, Borneo, the Philippine Islands, and Japan. In the matter of exports an increase has occurred as to the United States of nearly 10,000,000, and the balance is favourable to us as regards all the other States of the Americas, except Mexico, Chili, and Peru. A large addition of export trade has taken place, too, with Turkey, Egypt, Java, China, and Japan; and, of British possessions, with Singapore and British North America. There is a slight decrease of exports to the Cape, Sweden, Denmark, and Prussia; but the total amount of British and Irish produce sent from this country up to the 30th of September of the present year is represented by a sum of 142,000,000, or 21,000,000 more than that reached in the corresponding months of 1865.

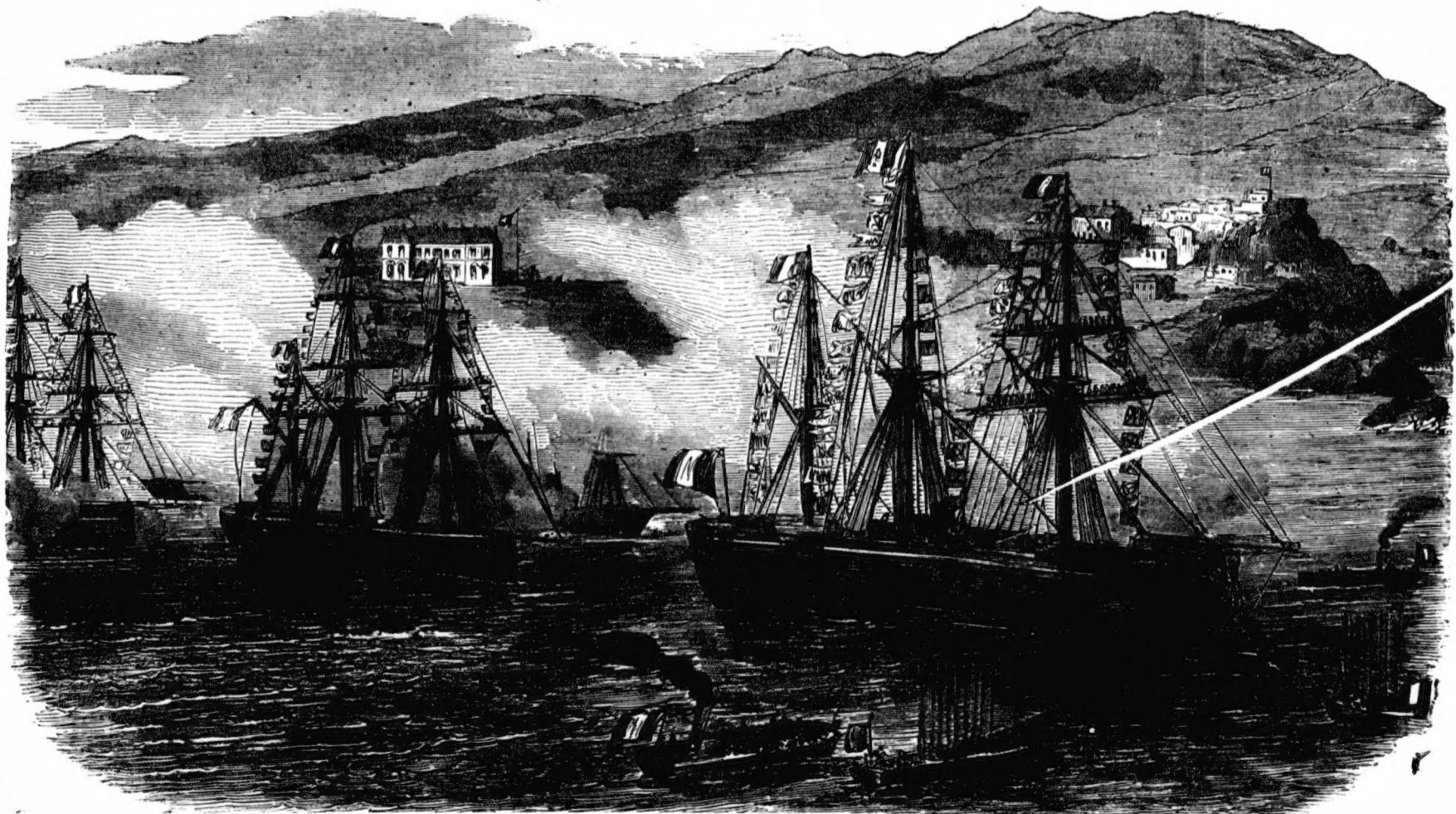
THE MARCH TO BROMPTON.—The Reform demonstration has passed from the stage of anticipation to that of history, and its measure has been very carefully taken by trained observers. The result appears to be that about 23,000 thoroughly respectable and well-conducted men cared enough about the question of reform, and had sufficient sympathy with those who arranged the procession, to give up a day's work for the purpose of marching about four miles through muddy streets on a rather unfavourable winter's day. This is the plain prose of the whole transaction; but it would be wrong to yield to the temptation which the difference between the promises and the performances of the Reformers certainly holds out to underrate the value of the meeting, and to treat it as a failure. Tall talk is the characteristic infirmity of half-educated minds, and the managers of such a meeting take as naturally to boasting about 200,000 men as the excited speakers at an open-air meeting take to sweeping denunciations of all sorts of things and persons whom they have really no reason whatever for denouncing. To induce 23,000 thoroughly respectable, perfectly sober, and well-conducted men to come forward and testify quietly and respectfully, but still decidedly, to their political views is no small thing. Few people could have looked at yesterday's procession without feeling that, as far as outward appearance and demeanour went, the men who composed it were as well qualified to express an opinion upon political subjects as the members of most other classes of society; and no one could fail to observe that they were as different a class of men from the roughs and blackguards who at one point of the procession tried to interfere with them for their own characteristic objects, as the members of different species. They were, in a word, an excellent specimen of the respectable mechanics and labourers who form the largest part of the population, and it would be a mistake to suppose that the members of the same class who did not join in the procession were on that account indifferent to its objects. London and the neighbourhood no doubt contain many thousand Reformers among the mechanics and labourers who saw no connection between walking in a procession and getting an extension of the suffrage. The event, in short, justifies, though it does not deepen, the impression which has been steadily gaining ground in all directions since the close of the session, that the unenfranchised classes really are in earnest about Reform, and mean to use all peaceable means to get it.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*



FETE AT VENICE: THE PROCESSION OF LANTERNS.



STATUE OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT AT WOLVERHAMPTON.—(T. THORNYCROFT, SCULPTOR.)



REVIEW OF THE FRENCH FLEET AT BIARRITZ.

THE VENETIAN FETES.

THE Engraving which we publish this week portrays one of the most gorgeous and impressive pageants of the late festivities at Venice—the "Procession of Lanterns on the Grand Canal." This interesting event has already been fully described in our columns.

THE NAVAL REVIEW AT BIARRITZ.

OUR Engraving represents the last and almost the only high official observance which commemorates the recent visit of the Emperor of the French to Biarritz. It is the fashion there for the Imperial party to live in the unostentatious style of plain citizen visitors; and their summer holiday affords a marked contrast in this respect to the life of the Court at St. Cloud.

The improvements in the French navy and the new ironclads are subjects of so much importance, however, that before his departure from Biarritz the Emperor felt it incumbent on him to assist at the review of the squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral the Baron de la Roncière le Noury. This squadron, known as the squadron de la Manche, consists of the Magenta, which carries the Admiral's flag; the frigates Heroine, Magnanime, and La Flandre, with the despatch-boats Forbin and Reynard. Although the weather had been for a month previous so bad that the anchorage at Biarritz was none of the best, Admiral Roncière, taking advantage of the first favourable day of the season, anchored before the town. The Emperor, the Empress, and the Prince Imperial successively visited each vessel of the squadron; and their attention was particularly directed to the new artillery on board the Magnanime, which is composed of rifled cannon of 19 and 24 centimetres. The largest of these has produced very satisfactory results, and, notwithstanding the immense weight of the cannon and its carriage, it is easily manœuvred.

His Majesty, in spite of the ground swell, which rendered the experiments rather difficult, remained some hours on board, and himself made several fair shots; before quitting the vessel, he distributed rewards to the officers and crews of the squadron. As their Majesties departed from their inspection of the vessels they were saluted by such a salvo as woke up the quiet watering-place with quite a new experience.

CONCERTS.

THE Sacred Harmonic Society had announced for Friday evening a performance of Handel's "Dettingen Te Deum," and Mozart's "Requiem," with Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington, Mdme. Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Weiss in the principal parts.

Christmas performances of "The Messiah" at Exeter Hall are advertised for Wednesday next and for Christmas Eve.

At the fourth concert of the present Monday Popular series the great feature of the entertainment was Mendelssohn's otet, led by the admirable violinist who, on this occasion, made his first appearance at St. James's Hall. It was, however, in Beethoven's lovely romance in F that Herr Wilhelmj's chief success was obtained. His eloquent, expressive performance of the song made a marked impression, and called forth a considerable amount of applause. The pianoforte accompaniment of the romance was played very beautifully by Mr. Benedict. Mr. Charles Hallé, who has aided so materially in spreading a knowledge of Beethoven's sonatas among the English public, played the sonata chosen for this occasion (that in C minor) with the carefulness and good taste that always characterise his execution, especially when he is engaged on the work of a master for whose music he has the fullest sympathy. Mr. Hallé was afterwards heard in the exquisite little piece by Heller and Ernst, called "Pensées Fugitives," which he performed in company with Signor Piatti. At the fifth concert (Monday last) the chief novelty was Schumann's trio in D minor—one of the works produced at a time when the composer's talent was in full maturity. Opinions, as the author of the annotated programme well observes, may differ as to its abstract merits; but that it is a very remarkable and original piece will hardly be disputed. The pianoforte solo (Mr. Charles Hallé) was Haydn's in E minor—unambitious in plan, unelaborate in development, yet, taking it altogether, one of the most perfect that he has left. Mr. Santley, at this, as at the preceding concert, did full justice to the vocal music; which, though not the most noteworthy feature of these entertainments, is undoubtedly a very attractive one. On Monday last he sang with great effect Schubert's admirable musical poem, founded on Goethe's literary poem of the "Erl King." The "Erl König" is one of upwards of one hundred songs composed by Schubert about the year 1815. It did not appear in print, however, till 1828 (the year of Schubert's death), when it was published as "op. 1," with a dedication to Count Moritz von Dietrichstein, one of the composer's warmest patrons, who acknowledged the compliment by a "roll of ducats." The Viennese publishers having declined the "Erl König," even as a gift (enterprising men!), it was engraved by Dr. Sonnlechner, at his own risk, and published by Diabelli, together with eleven other songs, on commission. The sale of these songs in a very short time enabled Schubert to pay his debts, after which the Viennese publishers became more alive to his extraordinary merits, though they never treated him according to his true deserts. The new version of the poem, as sung by Mr. Santley on Monday evening, is by Mr. Campbell Clarke, who, while rendering justice to the original and to himself, in a literary point of view, has not forgotten the exigencies of the music. In translating the "words" of a song it is not easy to preserve rhythm and style alike; but Mr. Campbell Clarke may be congratulated on the successful manner in which he has done so in this case.

COUNTERFEIT SOVEREIGNS.—It appears necessary to warn the public of the appearance of counterfeit sovereigns and a half-sovereign of a particular description which were lately stopped when presented at a bank in Manchester. The counterfeits in question are not rough casts taken from real coin, but have been struck in a press from false dies; and, what is more remarkable, they all contain gold, although, of course, in a less proportion than the standard. The fabrication of such counterfeits requires arrangements for engraving and stamping, and also the use of a certain amount of capital, quite beyond the means of the ordinary forger. They consist of a sovereign of George IV., dated 1822 (George and the Dragon) containing gold to the value of about 14s.; a sovereign of the present reign, dated 1852, worth 17s. 6d.; and a half-sovereign of 1849, worth about 7s. The half-sovereign is under weight, but the sovereigns are not. To detect the forgery will require a close inspection of the piece, on the part of most people, and a comparison to be made with a genuine coin. It will then be perceived that the engraving is coarse and light, to give the appearance of wear, and the letters of the inscriptions not sharply cut nor arranged with the regularity of the genuine coin.

THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR.—Mr. Richard Malins, Q.C., who has been appointed one of the Vice-Chancellors, in the room of Sir R. T. Kindersley, resigned, is the third son of Mr. William Malins, of Alston, Warwickshire. He was born in 1805, and was educated at Gonville, and Caius College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1827, when he was sixth junior optime on the mathematical tripos. Amongst those who attained mathematical honours in the same year were Professor De Morgan, of University College, London; Canon Jarrett, Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge; Dr. Kennedy, late Head Master of Shrewsbury School; Canon Carus, Prebendary Venn, and Mr. Webster, late Head Mathematical Master in Christ's Hospital. He was called to the Bar by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1849, and has long enjoyed an extensive Chancery practice. As member for the borough of Wallingford he was an active supporter of the Conservative party from 1852 to 1855. He lost his seat at the general election last year, being defeated by Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, Bart. Mr. Malins was married, in 1831, to Susanna, daughter of the Rev. Arthur Farwell, Rector of St. Martin's, Cornwall.

THE MYSTERIOUS LIGHT AT WHITBURN.—The mysterious revolving light at Whitburn which, during last winter, led so many vessels to destruction by luring them on the rocks, has again brought about the shipwreck of another vessel. The ship Margaret and Jane took this light for the Tynemouth Light, and was consequently shipwrecked upon Whitburn Steel. The master of the vessel had called his officers and men together, and they were all of opinion that the light was the revolving light guiding vessels into the Tyne. There was a steam-boat alongside of his ship at the time, and the master was also of the same opinion. Steering by the light the ship was lost, and the steamer had a very narrow escape. Another vessel ran ashore at the same place, and it is supposed from the same mistake, on Saturday night. The master was carefully investigated last year, and the official decision was that the light, wherever it was, was not deliberately shown for wrecking purposes. The recurrence of disasters through it this winter remains, however, a grave fact, and calls for every exertion on the part of the authorities to investigate the matter to the bottom.

FINE ARTS.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS.

THIS spirited association, after a successful season in London, has followed Society to Brighton, Metropolis-super-Mare, and opened an exhibition at the Pavilion. The collection contains many remarkable works, but still consists for the chief part of foreign pictures. The English school is scarcely represented—a matter to be the more regretted as the object of the society is a good and sound one, as indicated by the motto, "Forward! Self-help, self-respect," which is prefixed to *La Chronique Internationale des Beaux Arts*, a publication put forth by the society, and containing much that is of interest to lovers of fine arts.

A very fine picture of "A Heath," by Kindermans, is one of the most important of the landscapes. There are also some fine examples of the bold and broad style of Huberti, one picture of "Autumn" being specially admirable for courageous handling of difficult effects. In the same manner as Huberti paints Vanderhecht, whose pictures will be sure to attract the eye of the connoisseur; as will also two very clever landscapes by Duliphard. Noel's "Dieppe," and some architectural work in the style of Roberts by Monchot, must also claim notice.

One of the finest pictures in the collection is a marine painting by Van Heemskerck. The motion and lucidity of the tumbling sea in this remarkable work we have seldom seen equalled. Van Beest also is represented by a painting of a similar subject, and shows to advantage. Mr. Nibbs, who represents the English school in this department, is not very successful. His seas are cold and hard in form and colour; but he has a very excellent little water-colour sketch of ship aground.

The principal figure-subject in the room is Billoin's "Susanna"—an admirably-drawn figure, painted without either extravagance or utter abnegation of colour, into one of which two extremes painters of the nude are apt to fall. The pose is graceful and natural; but a critic of the sternly realistic school might fairly ask whether the golden hair and classic features can rightly belong to the Jewish beauty. Nevertheless, Jewess or no Jewess, the figure is a lovely one.

A pupil of Gallait, only twenty-two years of age, by name Hermans, makes his débüt here, and with such success that we may confidently expect to see many more works from his hand. He draws in the broad and effective style of his master, and his colouring is solid and pure; while, at least, in the pictures here exhibited he avoids the stagey method of treatment which too often detracts from Gallait's finest successes.

Some humorous sketches by Damnier will be found worthy of notice; and there are some water colours by Gavarni, to which his recent death lends additional interest. They are full of rare humour, most especially one wherein a juvenile Pierrot is being rebuked by his parent for want of polish. The action of the lad's figure is splendid!

A fox painted by Ockel is an excellent piece of work; and there is a scene by Chaigneau, with sheep, drawn in his masterly style. Reynart exhibits a couple of pictures, in which he realises the quiet, glassy surface and implied depth of a stagnant pool with the most felicitous force. The difficulty of giving depth where reflective surface has also to be expressed is no slight one, and we have never seen it handled with equal success.

The society has issued to its members a very excellent chromolithograph, from a picture by Dillens, entitled "The Skaters." It is a foreign work—Belgian, we believe—and in luminous depth of colour and harmonious blending shows that in this branch of colour-printing there is much we may yet learn of our neighbours.

THE NEUTRALITY LAWS.—The following is a list of the proposed members of the Royal Commission to inquire into the neutrality laws. It is intended that the Commission shall issue very shortly:—Chairman, Lord Cranworth; Sir W. Erle, Sir Hugh Cairns, Sir R. Phillimore, Sir Roundell Palmer, Mr. Vernon Harcourt, Mr. T. Baring, Mr. W. Forster, Baron Cranwell, Mr. Gregory, Lord Houghton, Dr. Lushington, and Dr. Twiss.

THE STRIKE IN THE IRON TRADE.—Most of the works in the north of England, except Darlington, have now been opened, the men going in on the masters' terms. At the latter place the men's desire for a settlement has been quickened by the introduction of a number of ironworkers from Staffordshire, and a meeting has been had with the manager of the chief works. No arrangement, however, has been come to, through the masters, as the men allege, requiring a reduction of nearly 20 per cent, instead of 10, as originally stipulated. At Witton Park, Middlesborough, and other places, men have gone in during the last few days; and the strike is now virtually ended.

PROGRESS OF CHOLERA IN EUROPE IN 1863-6.—The Registrar-General of England, in a supplement to his last weekly report, has published a series of authentic official returns, recording some valuable information relating to this plague of the nineteenth century in the cities and towns of Europe. The French returns show that in Paris the epidemic of 1865 reached its maximum in October, in which month 4653 deaths were recorded. In the first six months of the present year only 69 deaths occurred; but in July, the last month for which returns have been published, the deaths suddenly rose to 1743. The proportional number of deaths by cholera to every 10,000 of the population of Paris in 1865 was 39; in the first seven months of 1866 it was 11. In London the deaths by cholera in the present year were in the proportion of 18; in Liverpool, of 36, to 10,000 living. In Italy the epidemic began on the 25th of June, 1865, in the province of Turin, and destroyed 12,901 lives during that year; or to every 10,000 of the population living in the 35 provinces and the 349 communes that were attacked by cholera 35 deaths occurred. It appears that in Italy the town population has suffered less severely than that of the country, the number of deaths to 10,000 living being 38 in the former and 56 in the latter case. In Naples, 2301 deaths are recorded in 1865 out of 446,931 inhabitants, being in the proportion of 52 deaths by cholera to 10,000 living. In Vienna the returns date from Aug. 11 to Nov. 10, 1866—the ratio was 51. In seven Belgian towns, comprising Antwerp, Brussels, Bruges, Ghent, Mons, Liege, and Namur, no less than 11,771 deaths occurred from May 1 to Oct. 15 of the present year, out of a population of 553,377, or the deaths by cholera were in the proportion of 186 to 10,000 living. In Brussels the proportion was 164. In Holland 18,547 deaths occurred in 1866. Taking fifteen Dutch cities and towns, including Amsterdam, it appears that 8872 deaths by cholera were recorded in the five months from June to October of the present year, being in the proportion of 107 deaths to 10,000 living. In Amsterdam the ratio was 42, while in Utrecht it was 271. Norway, it appears, has suffered but slightly from the epidemic in 1866, only 48 deaths are recorded out of a population of 1,701,478.

A RICH AND ECCENTRIC LADY.—A few days ago there died in Upper Brook-street, Manchester, a lady named Crosier, whose eccentricities had long made her remarkable to the few neighbours to whom she was known. She occupied one of the best houses in the street, detached, surrounded by a garden or pleasure-ground, and large enough for the ordinary requirements of a person moving in the best circles of society, yet she lived alone. About fifteen or twenty years ago an old female domestic servant, who had been her most intimate friend for many years, got married, and Miss Crosier could never be induced to supply her place with another. Faithful to her old mistress, the servant visited Miss Crosier daily up to the time of her death, attended to her wants and the cleanliness of the house, and at night locked the old lady up till she returned the following morning. Miss Crosier had few relations, the nearest of whom was a married niece, at St. Helen's, but these, like everybody else, were practically refused admission to the house, and, except the old servant referred to, it is said that no one has been in the place for many years. A tax-gatherer was once privileged to step into the vestibule, but the old lady very naturally got rid of him as soon as possible. It is also said that Miss Crosier's eccentricities developed into an affection for a colony of cats, of which she had about ten or a dozen at the time of her death. When she became dangerously ill, a few weeks ago, her servant recommended her to make her will, and in the end Miss Crosier consented to do so, and devised her property and effects to her niece. After the old lady's death the house was searched, and in the attic there was found an immense quantity of silver plate, the value of which is variously estimated at from £2000 to £3000, and stowed away in various parts of the house, but mostly among the plate, was a sum of not less than £10,000. The money almost entirely consisted of Bank of England notes, many of them of old date, and among the cash was a large number of spade-ace guineas. The house was well stocked with a large quantity of valuable furniture and articles of domestic use, most of which were carefully wrapped up so as to preserve them from the dust. Miss Crosier was more than eighty years old at the time of her death. Though she so effectually excluded herself from the outer world as to be seldom seen, even by her nearest neighbours, it is said that she performed many kind actions to a favoured few, and that more than one person in that city has received assistance from her in times of pecuniary difficulty.

A BALL IN MEXICO.

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following account of a grand ball given by an American gentleman at the city of Mexico. Political changes do not appear to interfere with the gaieties of the empire:—

Mexico, which for some time past has been represented as the dullest of all cities, was last week greatly enlivened, and the *beau monde* thrown into excitement, by the announcement that a *bal costume* would be given by the wealthy banker and distinguished citizen, Mr. Eustace Barron. The ladies had been lamenting the absence of the Empress, and the consequent loss of Court entertainments, and at once a change came over their spirits; bright and joyous faces were to be seen as the fair ones went forth from shop to shop, from modiste to modiste, procuring the different articles for their costumes, and consulting as to the most becoming and charming characters they should assume. The invitations were only issued ten days in advance, and so all the artistes of fashion were busy as busy could be, and they heaped blessings and commendations upon the host who thus threw such unwonted custom into their hands at this dull season. The looked-for evening, Wednesday, the 3rd of October, arrived, and guests began to assemble at the appointed hour at the superb city residence of the munificent host. The *patio*, or court, was one mass of moss, evergreens, and flowers, through which were interspersed innumerable coloured transparencies, lending a fairy character to the whole scene, and reminding one of the same tasteful ornamentation which is seen in the beautiful public gardens of *La Belle Paris*. Here a native band discoursed its choicest music in strains of melodious welcome to the throng of honoured guests; whilst the far-famed Austrian band tempted the lovers of the dance and waltz to the spacious halls above. Mounting the broad staircase, which was lined on each side with the rarest greenhouse plants, the guests were received in the corridors by knights and gentlemen attired in court costumes of the olden time, whose province it was to introduce each new comer to Mr. Barron and the lady hostess of the evening, his sister, Mdme. Antonio Escandon, whose refined and graceful greeting was the theme of universal appreciation. After the first dazzling view of the brilliant scene, and as the eye became more accustomed to the display, each took note of the different characters which circled around in waltz and dance or glided from room to room; and yet such a scene is difficult to describe. The feeling is similar to that I have experienced often in Europe after walking through gallery after gallery of paintings. So much had been seen and admired that it was difficult to say what most struck the fancy. Perhaps your lady-readers will not be uninterested in comparing a fancy ball in what seems to them so remote a country with one in their own gay metropolis. Commencing with the host, I will say that his good taste prompted him to appear in one of the most unostentatious costumes of the evening. He represented a huntsman in the days of Charles V. He wore shorts and jacket of brown velvet, with puffed sleeves of the same coloured satin, top-boots, and a brown velvet hat; the whole looking almost grave, but that it was relieved by a magnificent cluster of diamonds which, fastened on the hat, blazed and flashed wherever he went. The gorgeous style in which Mdme. Escandon was attired was in striking contrast with this quiet simplicity on the part of her brother. She represented "Fire," and her dress had been recently sent from Paris, composed of black and crimson velvet, with fiery flames embroidered on the skirt. The dress was of itself sufficient to command instant attention and admiration; but the sparkling, lustrous jewels which decked her neck and arms, the coronet of diamonds which adorned her brow, and the gems which everywhere decorated her dress, were brilliant in hue as fire, and enabled her to carry out the personation to perfection. I suppose in no country in the world are more magnificent jewels to be seen, and not only one or two, but at least a score of ladies might on that evening have been singled out as wearing a fortune that Royalty might almost envy. Miss Carlotta Escandon, also as "Fire," may next be noticed. Her dress was of great beauty, the most striking feature in it being the red velvet cap richly trimmed with diamonds. Mdme. Sanchez Navarro, one of the Empress's ladies in waiting, in beautiful though not very distinctive costume, was also much admired. Then comes a host of Mexican beauties, and it may truly be said that the young ladies in this country compare favourably in beauty with those of any other nation. Among these space only allows me to mention such as were most striking and attractive. Miss Bourdillon, in the lightest of tulle, had her veil and dress covered with insects and birds of gorgeous plumage, and was to be known as "Air;" the Misses Rubio, as "Greek Maidens;" Miss Negrette, as "Folly;" Miss Barandiaran, as a "Manola;" the Misses Rivas, as "Avantail," in a Hungarian riding-dress; Miss Vega and Miss Vivanco, as "Constellations;" Mrs. Frank Rivas, as a "Polish Lady;" Miss Glenie, as an "Italian Peasant;" Miss Vizcaya and Mrs. Gonzales figured as "Marquezas" in the reign of Louis XIV. and XV.; Mr. Goribar, as "Ione;" Mrs. Amoro, as "Heaven;" and Mrs. Kaufmann, as a Sultana. Mrs. Lonergan's tasteful Pompadour dress attracted much attention; and her daughter, fourteen years of age, represented sweet "Simplicity" in the becoming dress of a shepherdess. The beautiful Mdme. Magnan, a Russian by birth, appeared in white domino, with a wreath of heartsease bordering her rich silk robe, and was universally admired. The Polish dress of the Viscountess De Noué, composed of green satin and point lace, surmounted by a conical head-dress, was much complimented; and her husband's white Algerian robes and turban were only rivalled by the genuine Arab costume of Mr. Le Strange, the British Secretary of Legation. Count and Countess Wickenburg wore native Wallachian dresses, much resembling the dress of the North American Indians. Mr. and Mrs. William S. Crawley had costumes copied from ancient family portraits—the lady's dress of white satin and black velvet, and the gentleman so disguised in a long curling wig that his acquaintances could scarcely recognise him. Mr. Edward T. Kirkpatrick, the able, efficient, and popular representative of the Mexican Imperial Railway Company, appeared in a dress of white satin and gold lace, as a squire of the time of Henry IV., and was decidedly one of the best in the room. Mr. Nathan Davidson, in the rich, elegant attire his grandfather wore when one of the Georges was King of Merrie England. The Hon. Mr. Scarlett wore the uniform of a Colonel of English Yeomanry; and his accomplished daughter made one of the fair bevy of young ladies who chose the pretty and favourite dress of peasant girl. Among others of our English friends were Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Jackson, the first as Marquis and the latter in a dress copied from an old Huguenot picture. Colonel Andrew Talcott, chief engineer of the Mexican Imperial Railway, sustained the character of a Venetian gentleman. Mrs. Randolph Talcott represented "Night," the black tulle dress, silver stars and crescent, contrasting beautifully with her dark eyes and hair, and soft complexion. Mrs. C. Talcott was the only "Red Riding Hood" of the evening, and looked girlish enough to personate our old favourite in that most charming of nursery tales. Mrs. Southgate, another accomplished daughter of Colonel Talcott, in the dress of a lady of the Court of Louis XV., looked not far behind the fashions of the present day, as powdered hair, looped dresses, and lace and roses are as much in vogue now as they were in those far-off days. Miss Magruder personated a huntress; white silk dress, scarlet jacket, velvet cap, golden bow, bugle, and quiver of arrows; and another striking costume of Parisian make was that of a lady who represented "Frost." Mrs. General Magruder, as a French lady of the Restoration, was attired with unusual taste. And last, but not least, there appeared a lady who represented Queen Katherine of Aragon with much taste and dignity. Among the gentlemen's costumes were to be seen Roman togas, courtiers of every degree, English jockeys, French Marquises, &c.; and especially noticeable among these were the gentlemen of Mr. Barron's household, who so assiduously aided in dispensing the elegant hospitalities of the evening—Mr. Lonergan, as a Spanish Major; Mr. Joseph Watson, as a Marquis of Louis XV.'s reign; Mr. John O'Gorman, as a gentleman in the time of Philip IV. of Spain; Mr. George Murphy, of Charles II. of England; and Mr. Alfred Lonergan as Don Quixote.

Mr. N. P. WILLIS, the American author, has had a paralytic stroke, and is in a very critical condition.

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